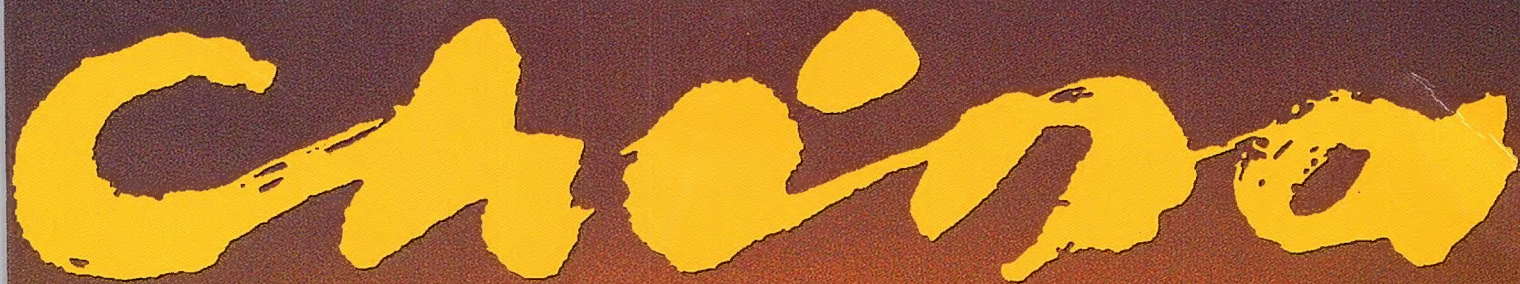


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C H I N A T O U R I S M



# AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY — RECORDS OF 48 HOURS IN CHINA

- THE FIRST GLOW OF THE NEW MILLENNIUM
- NEW-BORN BABIES
- CEREMONIES ACROSS THE LAND

242

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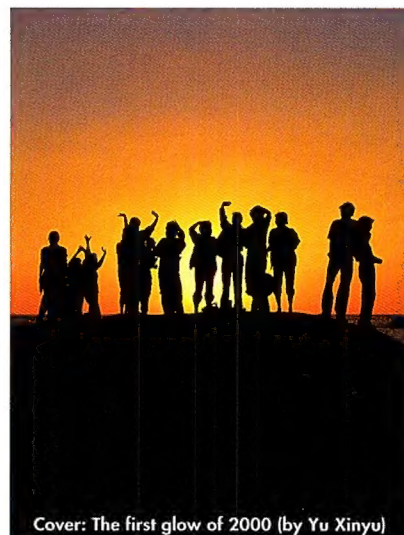
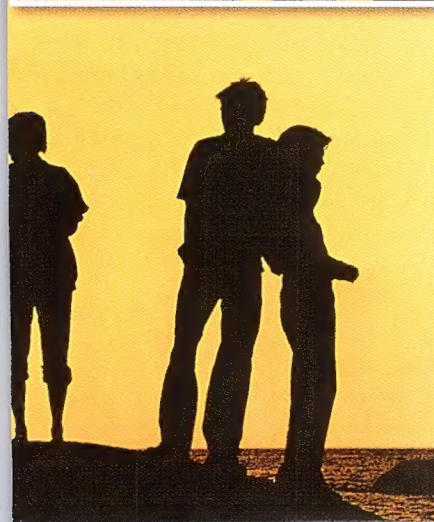
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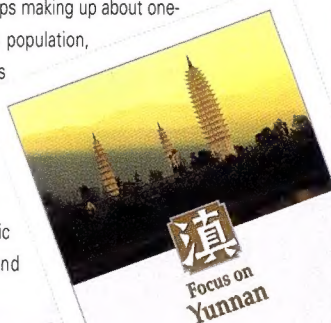
For the majority of Chinese, whatever the date, they carry on with their lives' routine. The arrival of the new millennium, however, reminds us to respect history and care more about the future.



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### Focus on Yunnan

The mountainous wonderland of Yunnan enjoys a favourable warm climate year round. Its capital, Kunming, sitting alongside Yunnan's largest lake, Dianchi, has the honourable name of "Spring City". The province is full of natural wonders and cultural relics, such as the Stone Forests, the Shangri-La, and the ancient cities of Dali and Lijiang. With over 20 diverse ethnic groups making up about one-third of the population, opportunities abound for you to see their characteristic cultures and customs.



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### Focus on Fujian

Situated on the southeast coast, Fujian Province overlooks Taiwan Island across the Taiwan Strait. Its mountainous landscape includes the Wuyi Mountain Scenic Area, one of the UN World Heritage sites in China. The province's zigzag coastlines, numerous beaches and charming seas offer spectacular scenic beauty as well as historical and cultural interest in such places as the Drumming Wave Islet in Xiamen and the Mazu Temple in Meizhou Island.



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### Focus on Shanghai

Shanghai, the largest metropolis in China, and formerly the Far East financial centre, has experienced dramatic development over the past century. The world-famous Bund along the Huangpu River shows you buildings of different historical periods and varied architectural styles, while skyscrapers are rising in the new area of Pudong. Shanghai's multiculturalism is seen in its music — operas, nostalgic jazz and discos — and in the busy commercial district of Nanjing and Huaihai roads.



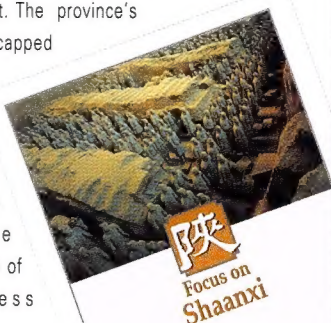
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### Focus on Shaanxi

Shaanxi is the cradle of the Chinese civilisation and Xi'an was the capital of 13 dynasties. This has left Shaanxi a rich legacy of historical sites and cultural relics. In the provincial capital Xi'an, there is the fascinating terracotta army unearthed from the tomb of the First Emperor, Qin Shihuang; the tomb of Tang-dynasty Wu Zetian, China's first empress; and the stele forest. The province's beauty is capped with the sheer cliffs of Mount Huashan and the yellow earth of the Loess Plateau.



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### Focus on Guangdong

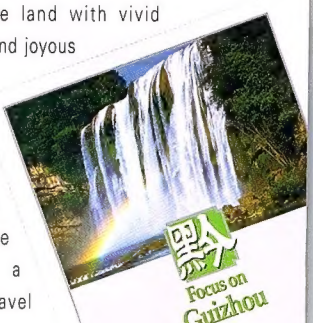
An important gateway into China, the fertile Pearl River Delta of the southern province of Guangdong fans out from Guangzhou to the South China Sea and borders Hong Kong and Macao. The province's natural scenic spots include the limestone pinnacles of Zhaoqing's Seven Star Crag, the red sandstone of Danxia Mountain, and the volcanic beauty of Xiqiao Mountain. The capital, Guangzhou, offers plenty of history in its museums, temples, mosques and old colonial buildings.



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### Focus on Guizhou

Guizhou is a land of splendid natural scenery. Its towering mountains and karst landforms team up with the gurgling rivers and magnificent waterfalls to form a wonderful work of Mother Nature. Huangguoshu Waterfalls and the limestone caves are the province's most frequented scenic spots. The 17 ethnic groups living in the picturesque province further colour the land with vivid customs and joyous festivals. It is its natural beauty and culture that make Guizhou a perfect travel destination.





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## Focus on Tianjin

Tianjin, one of the four municipalities under direct Central Government administration, is an important industrial and commercial centre of China and the biggest port in the north. The history of the city can be found in its Ancient Culture Street, 100-year-old Western-style buildings, Opera Museum and Mazu Temple. Besides the TV Tower and the Haihe River in the city, there are scenic spots in the

outskirts, including the Dule Temple and the Great Wall at Huangya Pass.



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## Focus on Xinjiang

On the vast land of Xinjiang in Northwest China, there are mountains, basins, deserts and lakes, which provide tourists with numerous attractions — ruins of ancient cities and tombs along the Silk Road; Turpan, an oasis in the desert; Kanas Lake, a gem imbedded in the Altay Mountains; Bayanbulak — the Swan Lake; and the world's second largest desert, the Taklimakan.

The minority ethnic groups living in Xinjiang, such as the

Uygur, Kazak, Mongolian, Uzbek, Tajik, Xibe, Kirgiz and Tatar, all have their own unique colourful culture.



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## Focus on Beijing

Beijing is a metropolis of everlasting charm. There are simply too many captivating things to see, to experience and to taste in this grand city with both old glamour and new mobility. There are historical sites such as the Palace Museum (the Forbidden City), the Temple of Heaven, the Summer Palace, and the Ming Tombs; there are also many scenic spots in its outskirts. Recently, tours have been organised for visitors to taste the real Beijing flavour of life — touring the small back lanes, having tea in a traditional-style teahouse and enjoying the Peking Opera.



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## Focus on Shanxi

Shanxi Province, one of the birthplaces of the Chinese civilisation, has impressive ancient architecture and a wealth of well-preserved Buddhist temples, monasteries and grottoes. Among the most famous are the Yungang Grottoes containing some of China's oldest sculptures and Buddhist art, the Yongle Palace, the Jinci Temple, the Hanging Monastery built on a sheer cliff and the Wutai Mountain, one of China's most famous sacred Buddhist lands.



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## Focus on Guangxi

Unusual topography has endowed the province with numerous spectacular karst formations — limestone caves, pinnacles and rocks. The most famous and enchanting scenic spot is Guilin, and the most travelled route, on the Lijiang River from Guilin to Yangshuo. The coastal city of Beihai has the country's largest beach, the Silver Beach. Other attractions include the varied traditional customs of ethnic minorities, the Sino-Vietnamese border area, and the mysterious Huashan cliff paintings.



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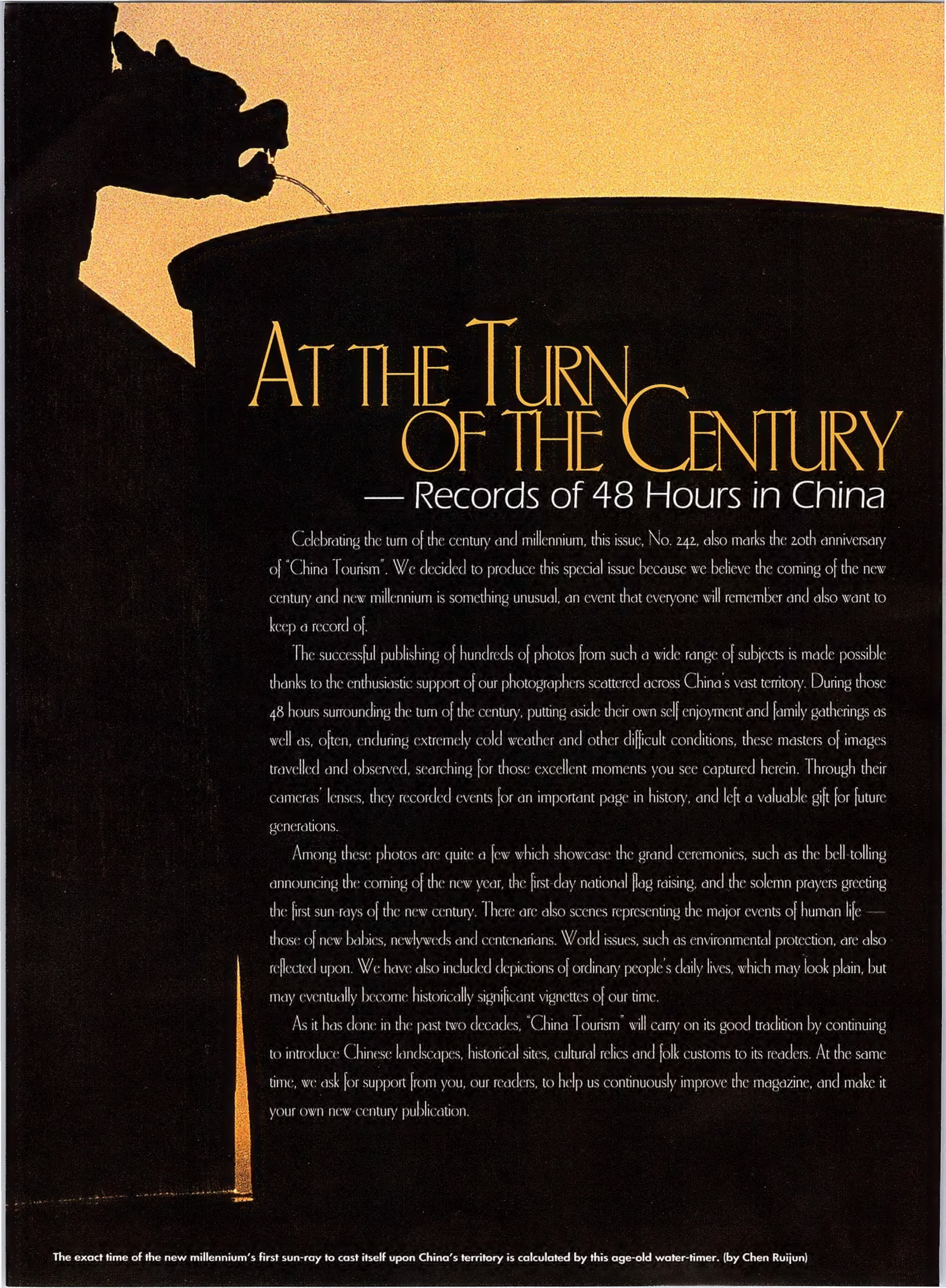
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# AT THE TURN OF THE CENTURY

## — Records of 48 Hours in China

Celebrating the turn of the century and millennium, this issue, No. 242, also marks the 20th anniversary of "China Tourism". We decided to produce this special issue because we believe the coming of the new century and new millennium is something unusual, an event that everyone will remember and also want to keep a record of.

The successful publishing of hundreds of photos from such a wide range of subjects is made possible thanks to the enthusiastic support of our photographers scattered across China's vast territory. During those 48 hours surrounding the turn of the century, putting aside their own self enjoyment and family gatherings as well as, often, enduring extremely cold weather and other difficult conditions, these masters of images travelled and observed, searching for those excellent moments you see captured herein. Through their cameras' lenses, they recorded events for an important page in history, and left a valuable gift for future generations.

Among these photos are quite a few which showcase the grand ceremonies, such as the bell-tolling announcing the coming of the new year, the first-day national flag raising, and the solemn prayers greeting the first sun-rays of the new century. There are also scenes representing the major events of human life — those of new babies, newlyweds and centenarians. World issues, such as environmental protection, are also reflected upon. We have also included depictions of ordinary people's daily lives, which may look plain, but may eventually become historically significant vignettes of our time.

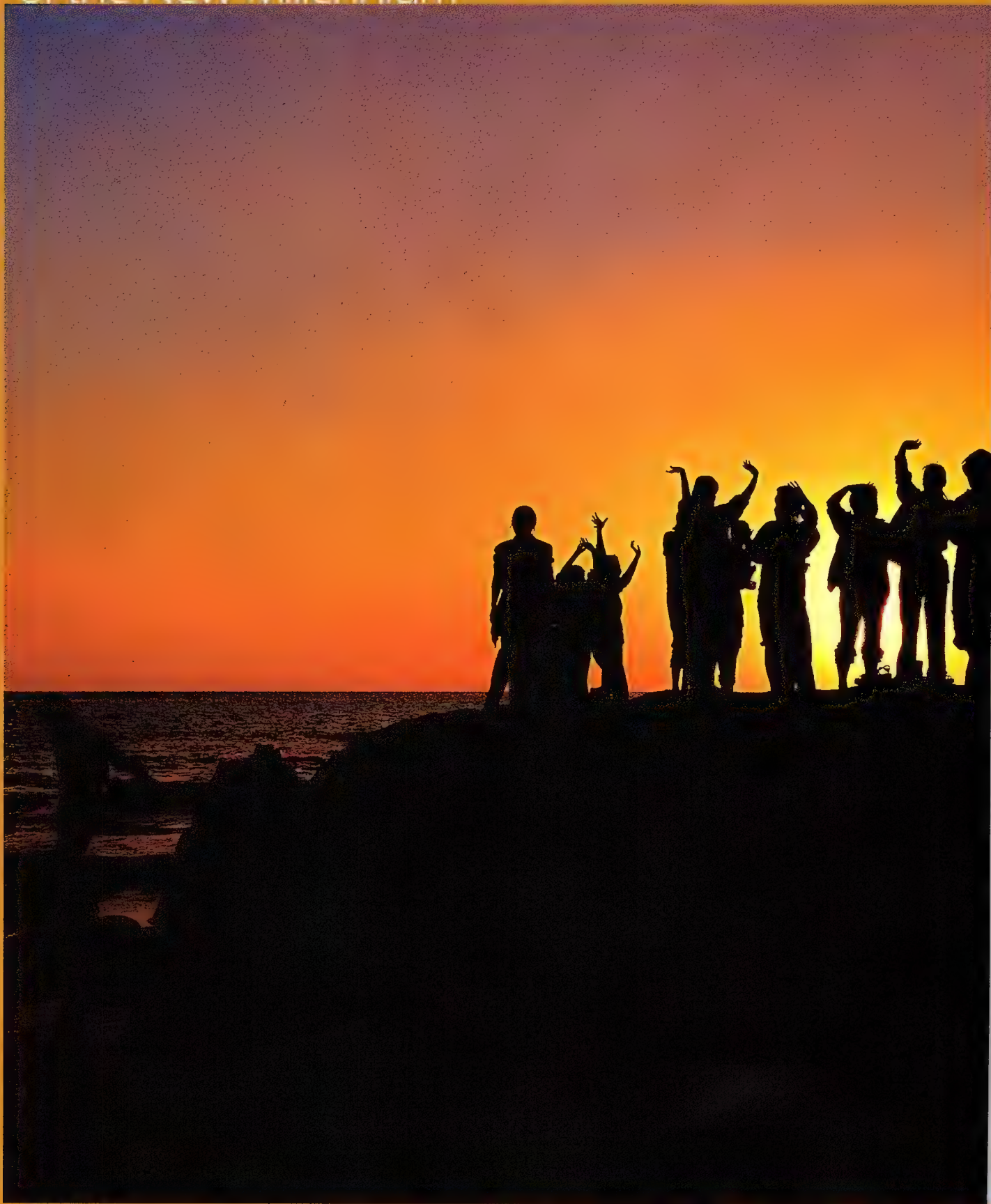
As it has done in the past two decades, "China Tourism" will carry on its good tradition by continuing to introduce Chinese landscapes, historical sites, cultural relics and folk customs to its readers. At the same time, we ask for support from you, our readers, to help us continuously improve the magazine, and make it your own new century publication.







# The First Morning Glow of the New Millennium



**Sanya**

Waving to welcome the first daybreak of the new century. By Tu Xinyu





The first morning glow of the new millennium naturally caused a great sensation throughout the world and people waited all night to witness its glory.

Kiribati, a south Pacific island country straddling the international date line, was the first to see the arrival of the initial light of the new millennium at 5:42 a.m. Haima Beach of the Nansha Islands was the first Chinese territory to see the light at 6:27 a.m.

In contrast to the arrival of the first morning glow of the year 2000 was the sunset on the last day of 1999. In a sense, we could regard the last sunset of 1999 as bidding goodbye to the past. Likewise, we should regard the first light of 2000 as a symbol of the future and along with this light, all things fresh in the new millennium shall gradually arise.

Of course, the arrival of the new millennium cannot entirely cut the present off from the past. There are certain things that can be separated between the past, present and future, but there are also many things that are inter-related and intertwined. Some things simply go on and on. For example, new and high technology that surfaced toward the last years of the 20th century — despite some being considered as economic bubbles — will certainly be carried on into the new century and keep its momentum. In China, the economy keeps developing at a fast rate and people have higher demand for a modern life. In the foreseeable future, the environment for human life will undergo drastic improvement. It should be said that the new millennium will be an era of great hope for China and the new century will be a time for the country to demonstrate greater potentials.

No matter how glorious yesterday was, we cannot keep it alive. Even if tomorrow is full of attractions, we must first take up the challenge of making solid steps today. To dwell on past achievements will not enable us to keep step with the new age. It is a one-way journey. While we will never be able to revisit the past, we must be mindful of it, for it is the lessons learned of life's expedition thus far, that empower us to surmount the obstacles currently under foot.

With each step today, we chart our course into the future. Though the future is bright and splendid, we will not reach it lest we take the first step.

Let us join hands and march into the new millennium, towards a better tomorrow.



AT THE TURN OF  
THE CENTURY

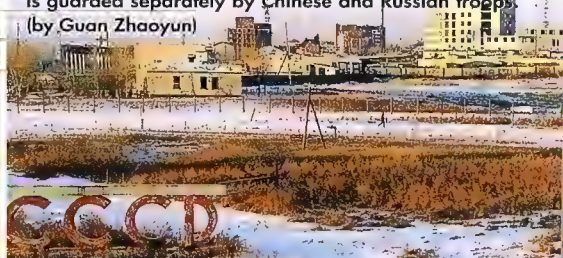
## Beijing

The brightly lit Tian'anmen Square on the last night of the 20th century. (by Bian Zhiwu)



## Manzhouli, Inner Mongolia

The Shibali Entry Port in the afternoon. This border zone is guarded separately by Chinese and Russian troops. (by Guan Zhaoyun)



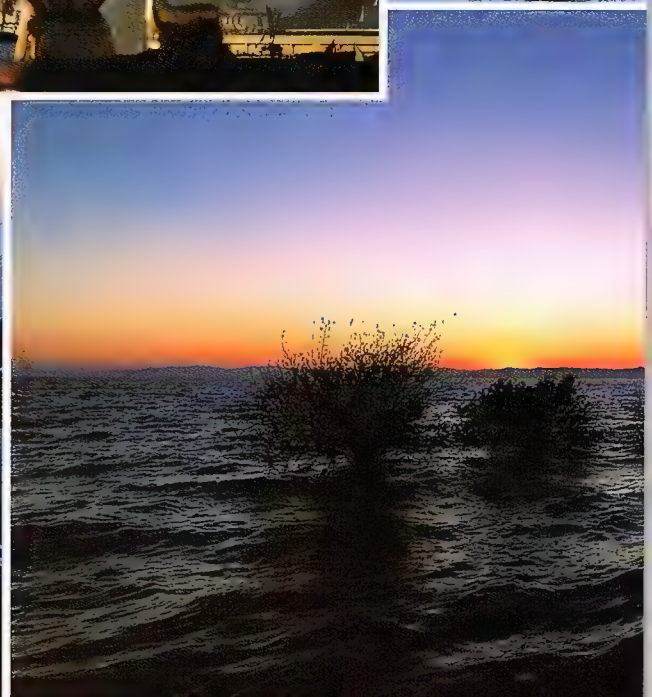
## Lhasa

At 6:47 p.m., the Potala Palace, bathed in the sun's final glow of the 20th century, looks exceptionally imposing. (by Che Gang)



## Taipei

Taipei citizens gather at the New Light vista point in the city to witness the last sunset of 1999. (by Chan Yat Nin)



## Kunming

Dianchi Lake in the twilight. (by Wu Yinan)

## Kashi, Xinjiang

The sentries in this boundary region perform their duty as per usual — patrolling on horseback. (by Bao)



## Linhai, Zhejiang

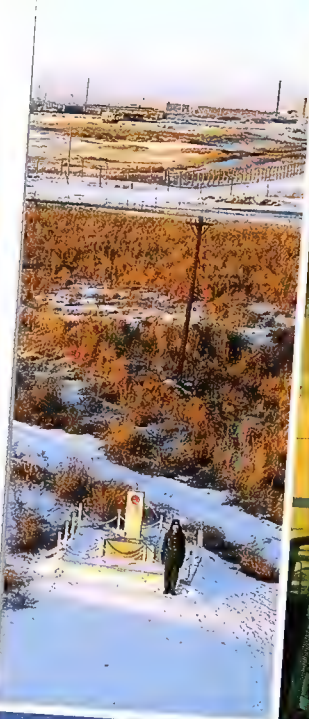
The sun rises for the last time in the 20th century on the ancient Taozhu Fortress on Furong Peak. (by Zhao Haiping)





**DECEMBER 31, 1999**

The last day of the 20th century adds a magical touch to everything ordinary



**Hong Kong**

At the Hong Kong International Airport, passengers wait for boarding. (by Liu Yang)



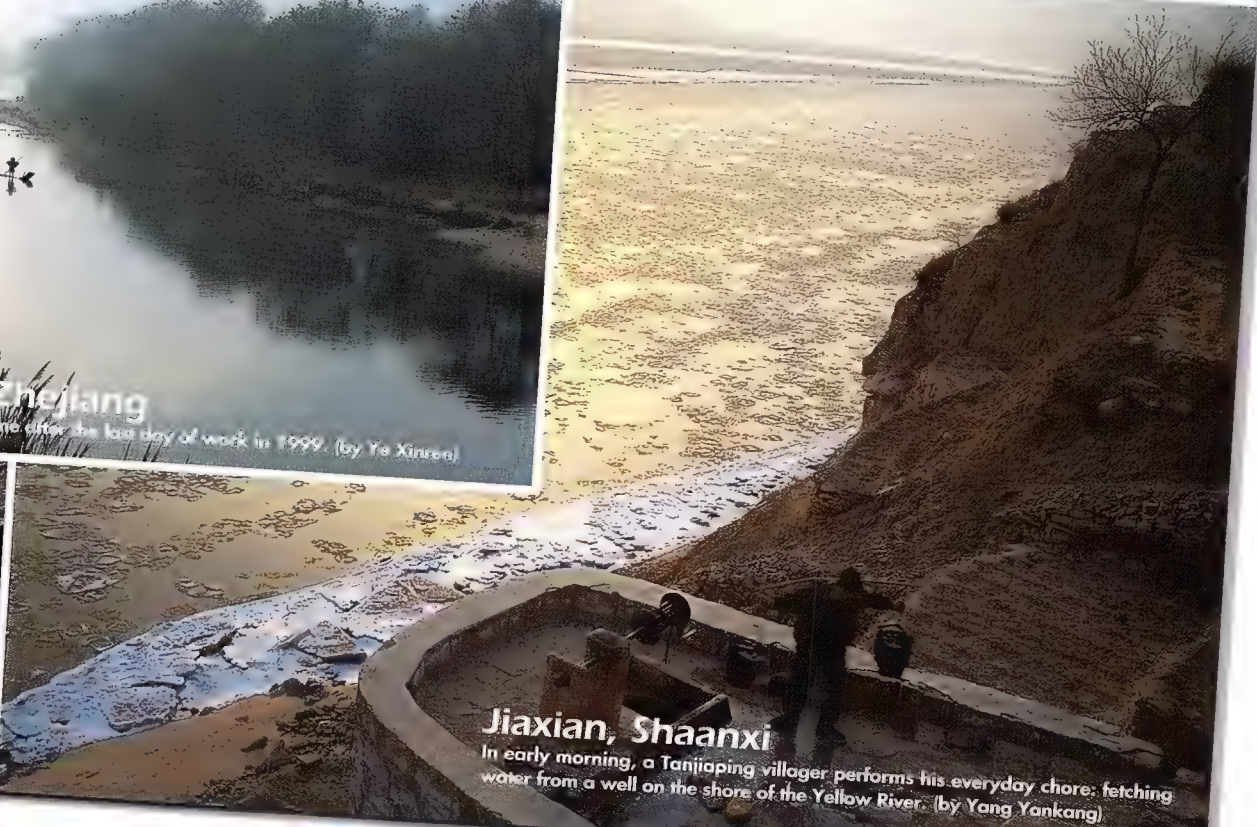
**Shenzhen**

At 11:00 p.m., a throng of eastern people wait in Shennan Road for the countdown. (by Zheng Jigang)



**Nanxi River, Zhejiang**

Fishermen on their way home after the last day of work in 1999. (by Ye Xinren)



**Jiaxian, Shaanxi**

In early morning, a Tanjiaping villager performs his everyday chore: fetching water from a well on the shore of the Yellow River. (by Yang Yankang)



**DECEMBER 31, 1999**

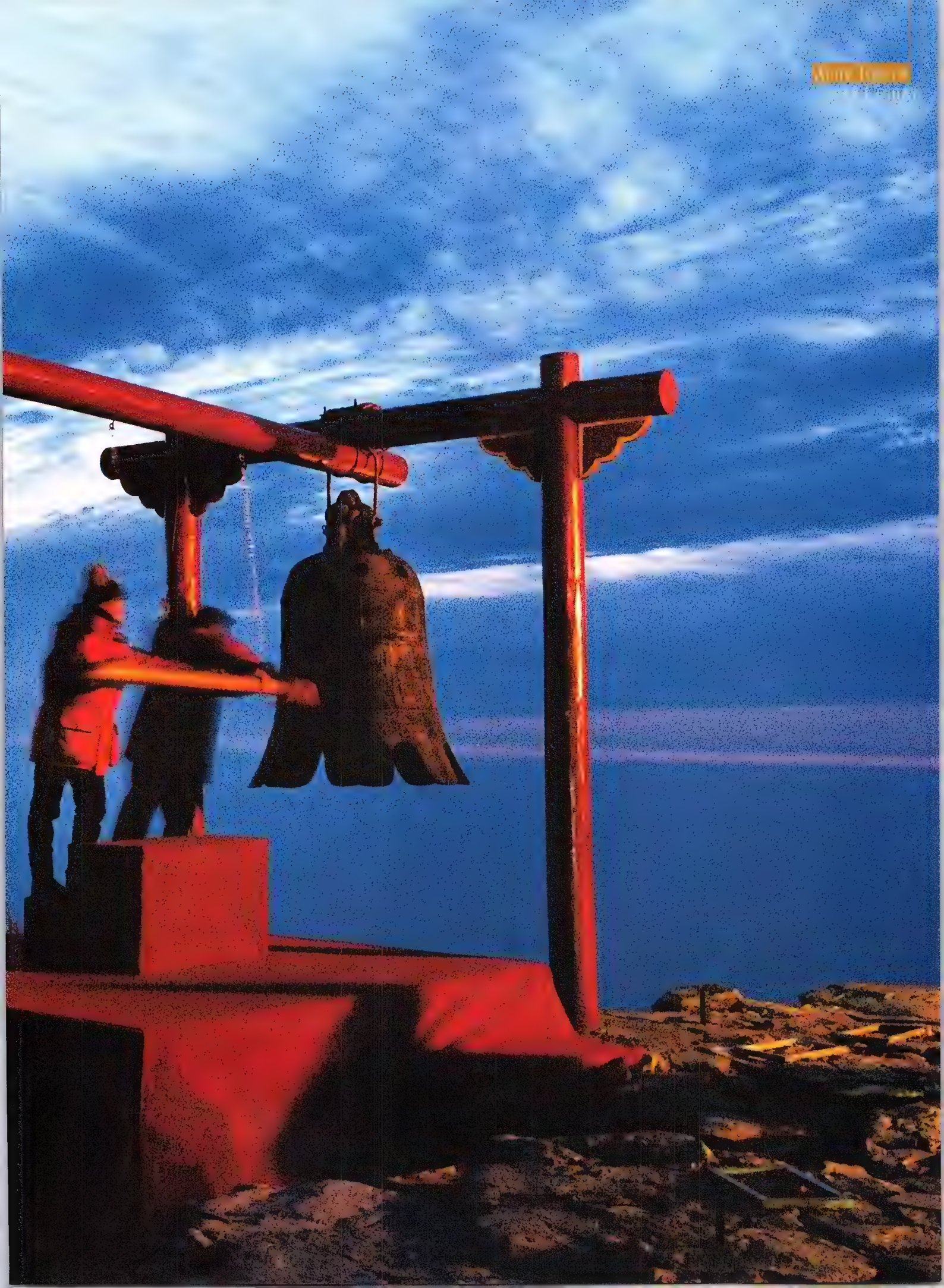
A bell toll will be heard on the peak of Mount Taishan when the new millennium arrives



### **Mount Taishan**

To ensure a smooth broadcast of the programme Millennium Bell Toll, scheduled to be shown on January 1, 2000, CCTV arranges an on-the-spot rehearsal at 7:15 a.m. a day before: a mother and son will co-operate to toll this 1,000-year-old bell to announce the new millennium's arrival. (by Xue Yao)







At the Dawn of  
the Century

## Sanya

Sanya at the southern tip of Hainan Island greets the first daybreak of a brand new year. (by Huo Yan)

## Qinhuangdao

Telling tales of the Chinese and Japanese Empires, a port in North China, by the Bohai Sea.

## Xiamen

Xiamen citizens gather at Qianpu to catch the moment the fireball rises above the horizon. (by Xie Jianpo)

## Mount Hengshan, Shanxi

The beacon towers along the Great Wall at Longshan Mountain, an offshoot of Mount Hengshan, standing in the morning sun. (by Li Youxiang)

## Dabancheng, Xinjiang

At 8:30 a.m. the morning sun dyes the sky with amazing colours at the Dabancheng Wind Power Station, 40 km from Ürümqi. (by Song Shifang)

## Jiayuguan Pass

Jiayuguan Pass at the west end of the Great Wall welcomes the millennium sunrise at 8:30 a.m. (by Zhao Guangqian)

## Mount Huangshan

The morning sun reveals itself from behind Shixin Peak at 7:05 a.m. (by Ling Jun)

## Jilin

Jilin City of Jilin Province at 2:00 a.m. on the first day of the 21st century. (by Liu Chunyang)





**JANUARY 1, 2000**

The first morning glow pierces the sky,  
marking the new millennium's arrival



### Lijiang River

In the first rays of the morning sun, the picturesque Lijiang River looks even more gorgeous. (by Teng Bin)



### Lhasa

The sun climbs up the sky of Lhasa at 7:56 a.m. (by Che Gang)



### Xichang, Sichuan

The first day of the new millennium at the satellite launching base in Xichang. (by Han Yuanhua)



### Shanghai

The international metropolis bathes in the first light of the 21st century. (by Yang Jianzheng)



### Hong Kong

Tranquillity still dominates the energetic city when the day is dawning. (by Jian Qingfu)



**JANUARY 1, 2000**

An extra hint of sacredness is added to the flag-raising ceremony today

**Guiyang**





## Suzhou



1. At 8:00 a.m., the Chinese national flag is hoisted at Renmin Square. A series of performances is staged afterwards to entertain an audience of about 60,000. (by Wang Qianhui)

2. An exceptional flag-raising ceremony takes place at Zhongyang Park at 8:00 a.m. Representatives of some 20 overseas enterprises established in the Suzhou Industrial Area are invited to hoist their own national or regional flags, including those of the Hong Kong and Macao special administrative regions. A long-distance running race kicks off after the ceremony; participants from these companies run a distance of 2,000 metres from the park to Century Square. (by Zhou Rende)



## Beijing

3



## Dapeng Bay, Guangdong

4



## Mohe, Heilongjiang

5

3. In early morning, Beijing citizens gather around Tian'anmen Square for the flag-raising ceremony on the first day of 2000. (by Cheng Guimin)

4. After the flag-raising ceremony on the first morning of the new century, a Chinese patrol boat starts performing its daily duty in Dapeng Bay, Guangdong. (by Zhang Jianguo)

5. At 7:00 a.m., soldiers stationed in this boundary area raise the national flag at sunrise. (by Liu Xiangyang)



The first sun-ray in 2000 has made an otherwise anonymous small town a magnet of attention.

Shitang, a town in eastern Zhejiang, at 28°15' N and 121°36' E, would become the first spot on the Chinese mainland to enjoy the sun's incipient rays of the new century and new millennium.

On December 31, 1999, tens of thousands of visitors from across China swarm to Shitang, vitalising the usually tranquil place.

The New Year's Eve sunset is gorgeous. Its crimson hues lingering on the western horizon, the sea, reefs and fishing boats all shimmer in the brilliant glow, presenting a magnificent picture to celebrate the turning of the century. After a red lantern at the town's hilltop is lit, all the stone houses layered up the slope have their lanterns lit too, dyeing the whole town of Shitang a soft sanguine.

The night celebration starts with kaleidoscopic fireworks, whose thunder is matched by gongs and drums. The folks from the town's 22 villages take an active part in a parade of 66 mobile pavilions. In each "pavilion", children are dressed up as historical and legendary figures.

After a sleepless night, at 5:00 a.m., all the hilltops are crowded with people.

At 6:00 a.m., when the air quiets, and the sea calms, the crowds become quiescent too — all is dominated by tranquillity. Gathering clouds begin to scatter, to everyone's relief. Suddenly, out of a soundless world, the huge Shitang Drum is beaten loudly, and, following its beat, a few dozen young men and women, dressed as fishers, perform a ceremonial dance on the Qianzhang Cliff. At 6:30, a vague glow appears in the east, penetrating the clouds on the horizon and tingeing their upper edges to light blue. The crowd now stirs, every pair of eyes fixing ever more acutely towards the east.

The opening ceremony of the Millennium Monument built on the Qianzhang Cliff starts at 6:42. At 6:46, the pink face of the sun smiles between the sea and the clouds on the horizon. Exactly at this moment, conch horns blow and their profound sounds are echoed by cheering crowds on all hills.

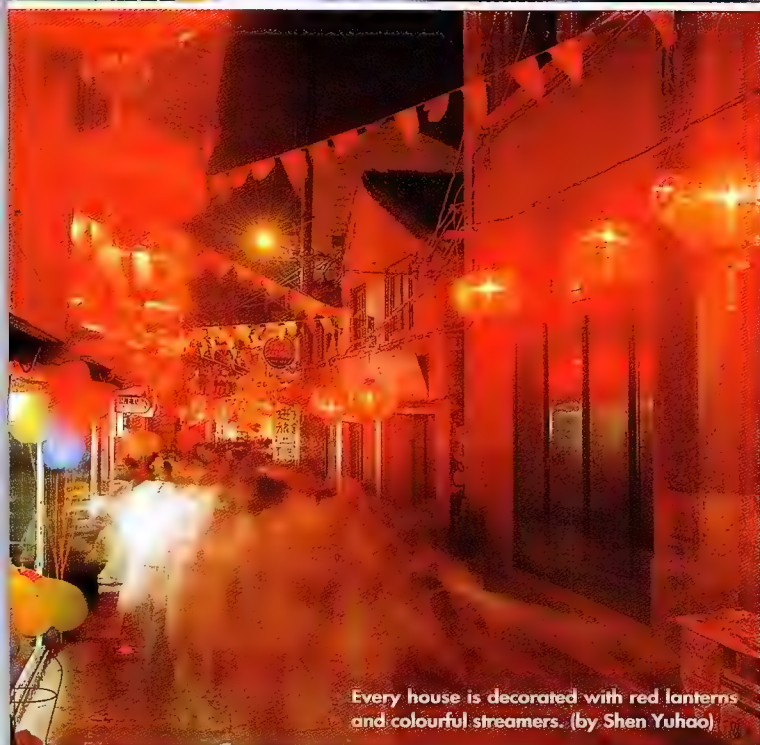
Like a fire engulfing the land, a bundle of sun-rays pierce the sky, framing the clouds in gold, striking the ground. As the sun ascends higher and higher, embracing land and sea in its generous brilliance, numerous seagulls set on their wings and thousands of sails take off as if in competition — the beginning of the new millennium is definitely a time to look for new directions and new hopes. [Article by Shen Yuhao]



A flourishing business street in town. (by Zhao Haiping)



Shitang in Zhejiang — the first place on the Chinese mainland to greet the premiere daybreak of the new millennium





# Striking the Bell

for the New Millennium



New Year's Eve, December 31, 1999: A massive crowd gathered on the Brooklyn Bridge to greet the new millennium. (AP/Wide World)









Hong Kong (by Xia Guoqiang)



Lupanshui, Guizhou  
(by Liu Xuewen)



Nanjing  
(by Liu Dongqi)



Mount Lushan (by Xiong Yue)

Grand and cheerful ceremonies announcing  
the start of a new era



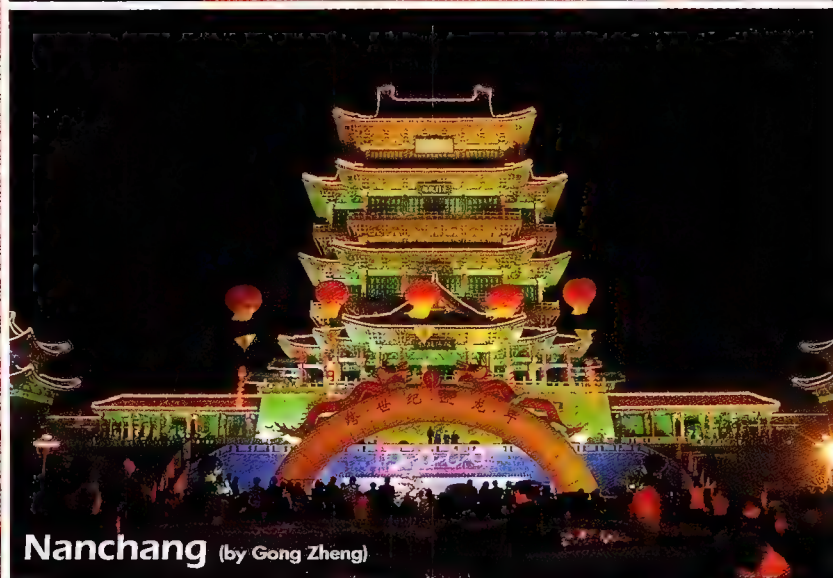
Beijing (by Wang Wenbo)



**Yangshuo** (by Teng Bin)



**Hangzhou**  
(by Li Qiuxiang)



**Nanchang** (by Gong Zheng)



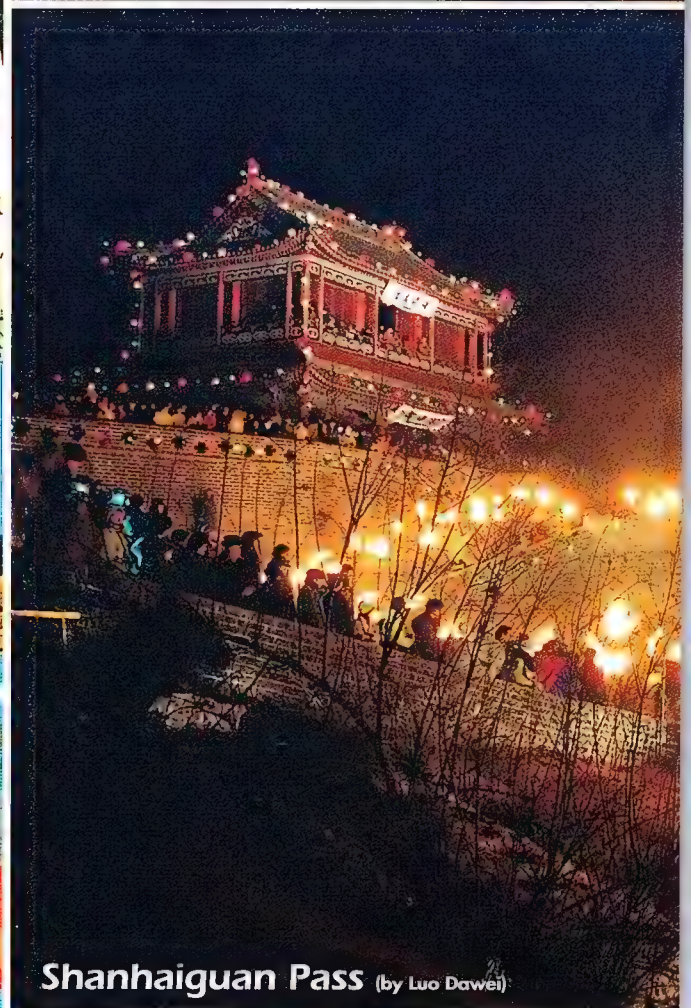




Shanghai (by Guo Hui)



Shenyang (by Sun Yangyi)

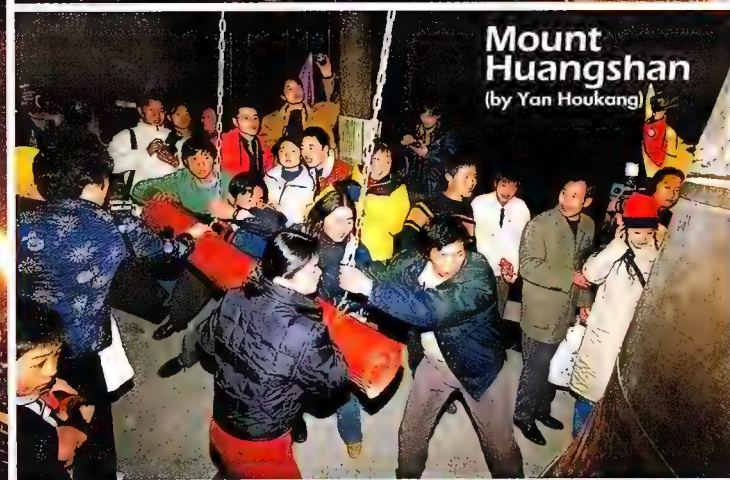
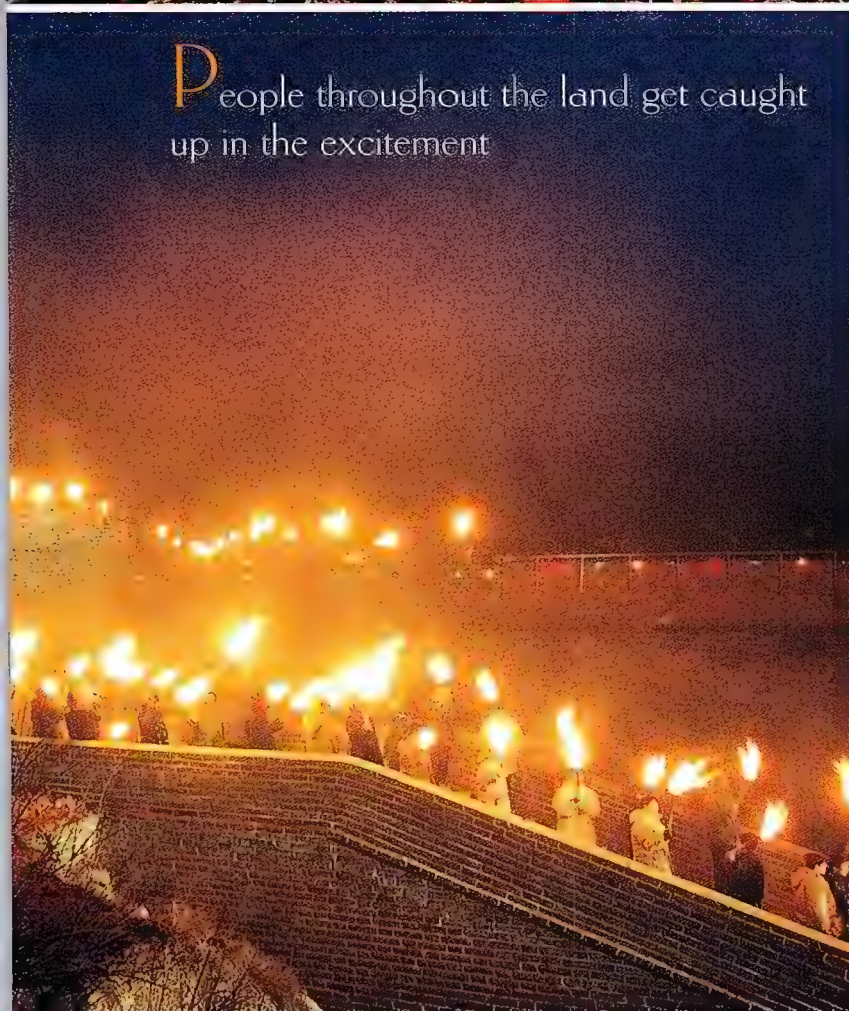


Shanhaiguan Pass (by Luo Dawei)



Beijing (by Wang Qijie)







Well-prepared for this  
once-in-a-thousand-years  
occasion



1. These people choose to say "hello" to 2000 by braving the bitter cold and joining themselves to form the figure "2000" on snow. (by Yang Huiquan)
2. A student of the Shenyang Sports Institute salutes the new millennium with an artistic barber's touch. (by Leng Bai)
3. A vivid sculpture of a coiling dragon, also in the shape of the figure "2000", is set above the Lingxing Gate of the Confucius Temple situated by the Qinhuai River in Nanjing. According to the Chinese calendar, 2000 happens to be the Year of the Dragon. (by Hu Dajian)





4. This "millennium bicycle" in Shanghai reminds people that 2000 is also the Year of the Dragon. (by Lǚ Baohe)

5. Two jubilant Westerners make spectacles "2000" of themselves, at a party in Qingdao, Shandong Province. (by Li Wei)



Marching into a  
new century with  
a faithful heart

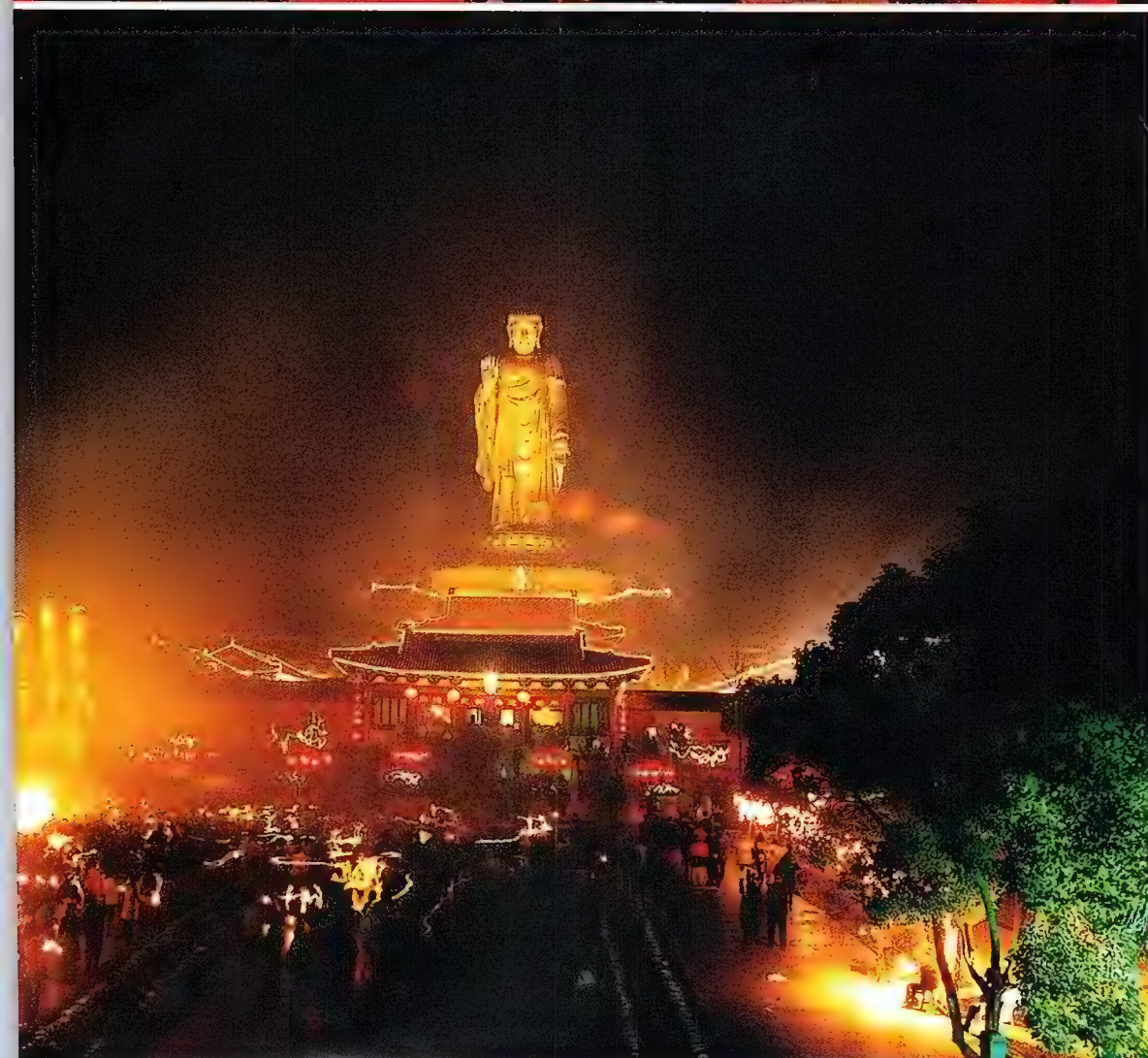


1. At 10:00 a.m. on New Year's Eve, inside the Bixia Temple on Mount Taishan, Shandong Province, a sacrificial ceremony takes place to pray for prosperity and peace for the nation and its people, as well as favourable weather and good fortune in the coming year. (by Xue Yao)

2. At 1:30 p.m. on December 31, 1999, Muslims in Beijing attend the congregational prayer to greet the New Year in the Niujie Mosque, the biggest mosque in Beijing. (by Li Youwu)







3. On the morning of January 1, 2000, a Mass is held in Xishiku Catholic Church, the largest of its kind in Beijing. (by Li Youwu)

4. When the New Year's bell is tolling, thousands of pilgrims crowd around the 88-metre-tall Buddha statue on Lingshan Hill situated by the scenic Taihu Lake. With lit incense in hand, they ask Buddha to bless them in the new year. (by Ji Jun)



Happy gatherings, hearty cheers, all reflect the moment's feelings







1. When the new millennium is only minutes away, people queue up outside the phone booths around Tian'anmen Square, a hot spot for the countdown in Beijing, hoping to ring their family and friends at this particular moment. (by Zhang Baoqi)

2. On the last night of 1999, people throng the Great Wall at Badaling to hail the new millennium. Many line up outside a mobile post office for a special postmark on commemorative stamps. (by Tian Baoxi)

3. On January 1, 2000, Feng Xuan, a farmer in Linfen, Shanxi Province, roams about the street on a pair of two-metre-tall stilts to celebrate the special day. Feng once spent 33 days walking from Linfen to Beijing on this pair of stilts. (by Liu Yinqing)

4. Lan Kwai Fong is a popular hangout of the younger generation in Hong Kong. On New Year's Eve the place is jammed with thrilled people drinking champagne, singing at the top of their lungs and dancing and jumping for joy. The carnival lasts until early morning the next day. (by Xie Guanghui)



5. In the early morning of the first day of 2000, about 60 staff from Swissotel Beijing gather on the Mutianyu section of the Great Wall for a special New Year celebration. (by Zhang Zhiping)

6. Local farmers of Luzhi Town, in Jiangsu Province, stage an indigenous performance to celebrate the birth of the new century. (by Zhang Zhiqiang)

7. When the clock strikes 12, these students in a dormitory of the Yantai University in Shandong cheer and toast each other a happy New Year. (by Li Xiaofei & Jia Haiyan)



A new millennium  
arrives amidst the  
thundering of gongs  
and drums

On the last evening of 1999, the 21st Century Paradise inside the Millennium Dome in Zhenjiang, Jiangsu Province, stages lively performances. The waist-drum dance vociferously expresses people's feeling about the coming new millennium. (by Gao Linsheng)







A jubilant celebration featuring local folklore is taking place at Jiayuguan Pass at the western end of the Great Wall in Gansu. Bonfires are built and people dance and sing in an exhilarated mood. When the exact moment arrives, numerous fireworks light up the dark sky. Amid the thunderous sound of the drums and gongs, 80 dragon dancers bring two 100-metre-long dragons to life. (by Zhao Guangtian)



China's 1.2 billion people have just entered the new millennium. Along with the rise of their living standard, people live longer, and the percentage of old people in the total population has been on the increase. Though not yet an aging population, the presence of so many elderly people has become a significant social phenomenon.

More than 1,000 years ago, the average life span of the Chinese was about 50 years. An old adage saying that "it is something rare that one lives to one's 70s" reflects a reality of the time. Today, 70 is no longer a hurdle in people's lives as more and more people live well beyond that age. This change, apart from the marked improvement of the living environment from 1,000 years ago, is due more importantly to people's deepened understanding of how to live. People can now take more initiative to improve the quality of their own lives.

Even compared with 100 years ago, the number of elderly people in China has visibly increased. Centenarians today have witnessed the change from the old to the new century, and they themselves are living witnesses of the change of time. Looking back at what happened in the past and looking forward to the bright future, they are overwhelmed more than anybody else.

At the other end of the population are babies. In such a large country with such a large population, new babies are born everyday. But to be born on the first day of the new millennium was something unusual. Even though many people planned carefully and waited for nine months, the number of babies delivered on this very special day was not large. Some mothers even optioned to have a Caesarean in order to have their babies delivered on the first day of 2000. To be born in the first year of the new millennium is something very special. More so for these babies, they were born in the age of high technology. It is a time of great change as the world has evolved more rapidly in the last 100 years than at any other time in history. The pace continues unabated and the new millennium in which they live will find mankind more efficient, increasingly intelligent and with greater aspirations. In a way, this age is theirs and in this sense, the year of the new millennium will be splendid.

This year also happens to be the Year of the Chinese lunar calendar. The little "dragons" born in the first year of the new millennium have a bright future ahead of them.





# Centenarians and New-Born Babies

年1月1日零時10分



00:10, January 1, 2000

A boy, weighing 3.3 kg, becomes the first millennium baby of the Women's and Children's Hospital in Jiujiang, Jiangxi Province. His parents name him Yang Guang, implying that his birth has brought about the sunshine of the new millennium. (by Hu Zunwu)



Centenarians: Stepping into a new era with a multitude of memories







1. Born in 1890, Hu Guiqing of Ningbo, Zhejiang, is already 110 years old. On the last day of the 20th century, she happily receives the good wishes from her family and fellow-villagers. Hu, though slim, has a sturdy body and clear mind. She was born into a family of longevity. Her sister is also a centenarian and her youngest brother is 82. She has a family spanning five generations and her eldest daughter is 91 years old. The secret of her longevity is that she keeps a balanced diet and eats three times a day, each at a fixed time with a fixed quantity. (by Gong Guorong)

2. This 103-year-old lady lives in a village in Quanzhou, Fujian Province. At noon on January 1, 2000, her family comes to wish her a happy and healthy New Year. (by Cai Mingfei)



3. Duanmu Mengxi is a student of Qi Baishi, a great Chinese painter of the 20th century. On January 1, 2000, Duanmu's own students pay a visit to him and his wife, and congratulate him on his long life. (by Hu Weiming)

4. The 117-year-old Mrs. Ma is a woman of the Hui ethnic group living in Wuzhong, Ningxia Hui Autonomous Region. The centenarian insists on practising the five Muslim rituals every day. She not only takes care of herself, but also manages to do some simple housework. She has never suffered from any severe illness nor taken any medicine. The old lady now leads a peaceful and happy life with her family, which consists of five generations. (by Liu Xianchen)



The millennium babies:  
Focus of the world



1. 00:04, January 1, 2000

The first millennium baby in Guangzhou is born at the Guangdong People's Hospital. The baby girl is 3.85 kg in weight and 52 cm in height. (by Li Jiejun)

2. 00:03:30, January 1, 2000

Another millennium baby is born at the Beijing Gynaecology and Obstetrics Hospital. The father helps stamp his boy's footprint on the birth certificate, symbolising the baby taking its first step in life. (by Chen Baoquan)







# 解放军二〇二医院 喜迎世纪婴儿诞生



## 3. January 1, 2000

Within the first few hours of the new century, five babies are born at the People's Hospital in Anqiu, Shandong Province. This is one of them, a boy weighing 4.3 kg. (by Wang Aiguo)

## 4. 00:00, January 1, 2000

At a commune hospital in Chenghai, Guangdong Province, this happy mother gives birth to twin boys — Zeshi and Zeji, arriving at 00:00 and 00:10 respectively and weighing 2.25 kg and 2.5 kg each. (by Chen Zhiwei)

## 5. 00:03, January 1, 2000

Nurses at the Liberation Army Hospital 202 in Shenyang place 16 babies, born within six hours before and after midnight, together for a group photo. The first on the left in this picture is the first millennium baby, a girl 3.4 kg in weight and 52 cm in height. (by Song Qing)



In the eyes of Chinese people, marriage is a matter of extreme solemnity. As a result, the choice of an auspicious date is very important. For many, there is no time better than the first year of the new millennium. It is thus no wonder that many young people have chosen January 1, 2000 to hold their wedding.

In general, weddings in China can be classified into traditional wedding, modern wedding, and ethnic customary wedding. However, the antiquated idea of men being regarded superior to women still lingers on. Of course, with the progression of time, this idea holds less and less ground.

In the past, the wedding night meant an occasion for making fun of the bride. Now it has been replaced by activities indicating the equality of men and women. In fact, in some modern wedding parties, the bride is given a chance to "interrogate" the bridegroom.

Looking back at weddings in the past millennium, we see an unmistakable change towards much more civilised practices. In feudal society, a marriage was something of a "blind match". Girls were confined in their homes and were totally deprived of the opportunity of getting to know men outside their families.

Even on the wedding day, the bride was blinded with a red scarf which was to be lifted by her husband in the nuptial chamber. Only then did she get the first glimpse of the man she was to live with for the rest of her life. As they had no contact before the marriage, their married life depended on their personal luck. Men could marry more than one wife, but a woman, once married, had to stay with the same man. If her husband died before her, she had no right to get married again.

Memorial archways erected for those women who committed suicide after their husbands' death — to show their loyalty — is testimony to the suffering of that era's women. The oppression women had to endure is telling of society's then low degree of civilisation.

The upsurge of women's rights in the world since the beginning of the 20th century has had a great impact on China. Equality between men and women, and the freedom in choosing one's future spouse, gradually became the way of life. Western traditions have gradually made their way into Chinese weddings, too.

The wedding day is now as much a celebration time for women as for men. As we look into the new millennium, we expect women's position in society will be further raised, along with continued economic growth and social development as a whole. Precisely because of this aspiration, the newlyweds who have arranged to get married on the first day of the new millennium caught much deserved attention.





# New Styles of Weddings in the New Century



81 couples, 10 a.m., Jan. 1, 2000 at Shenma Hotel, Pingdingshan, Henan.

"I promise to love you, comfort you, honour and keep you in sickness and in health, till death do us part..." As a new century unfolds, these couples open an important chapter of their lives with a most solemn declaration. (by Gao Hongxun)



A group wedding greatly amplifies the happiness of the newlyweds







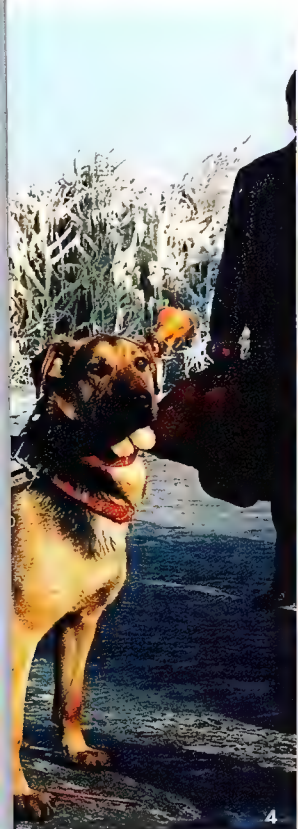
1. **200 couples** 8 p.m., Dec. 31  
China Folk Culture Villages, Shenzhen, Guangdong  
Amidst the sound of snapping camera shutters, 200 couples make their pledges and greet the first day of a new year, which is also the most precious moment in their lives. (by Zheng Ligang)
2. **2,000 couples** 11 a.m., Jan. 1  
The Great Wall at Badaling, Beijing  
Two thousand couples of varied ethnic groups, from different parts of China, participate in this Millennium Wedding Ceremony organised by the All China Women's Association. Standing on the fabulous Great Wall, they exhibit their indescribable pleasure to the world. (by Zhou Guoqiang)
3. **25 couples** 10 a.m., Jan. 1  
Jinghe Park, Tengzhou, Shandong  
Chuckling, grinning, guffawing... nothing other than laughter can best express their joy. (by Song Haicun)
4. **78 couples** 1 p.m., Jan. 1  
Zhongshan Rd. E., Ningbo, Zhejiang  
At the site of the legendary story "The Butterfly Lovers", these 78 couples coming from Shanghai, Liaoning, Xinjiang, Zhejiang and Guizhou become the blissful couples to tie the knot during The First China Butterfly Lovers Marriage Customs Festival. The climax of the event is a parade of a few dozen flowery vehicles carrying the newlyweds, accompanied by dancing dragons and lions. (by Gong Guorong)
5. **100 couples** 4 p.m., Dec. 31  
Seven-Star Crag Scenic Area, Zhaoqing, Guangdong  
This chain bridge, a popular tourist attraction in this scenic area, becomes the witness to the oaths made by these 100 couples. Holding hands with their sweethearts, they carefully step across this dangling bridge — and into the rest of their lives. (by Li Guoming)
6. **200 couples** 4:30 p.m., Dec. 31  
Nanshan Cultural Scenic Area, Sanya, Hainan  
"Oh God! It's fiery hot! Hope my make-up won't get messed up!" "Say cheese! The camera over there is focusing on us!" "How come it takes so long?" "Darling, do I look alright?"... What occupies these brides' minds now would probably be excitement and nervousness. (by Huang Yiming)
7. **200 couples** 8 p.m., Dec. 31  
China Folk Culture Villages, Shenzhen, Guangdong  
Some look serious, others relaxed; most wait silently while others whisper lightly to their darlings; one bride talks on her mobile phone, while another waves to friends and family... though behaving differently, these couples all come with the same purpose: to announce to the world their marriages. (by Liu Boliang)
8. **68 couples** 9 a.m., Jan. 1  
Culture Square, Shijiazhuang, Hebei  
In this solemn wedding, these pigeons not only symbolise peace and blessings, but also the ultimate hope of the newly wedded: to be a devoted couple just like a pair of lovebirds flying together in the sky. (by Li Yingjie)



No matter what form of transport, all kinds take couples on their wonderful journeys of love







**1. Antique car Dec. 31**

At the Millennium Wedding Ceremony, organised in Beijing by the All China Women's Association, this deluxe antique car is definitely a second-to-none alternative to other transportation. (by Zhou Guoqiang)

**2. Horse-drawn sledges Jan. 1**  
**Binhe Square, Altay, Xinjiang**

In a quiet birch forest, couples from 13 different ethnic groups, including the Kazak, Han, Uygur, Mongolian and Hui, following horse-drawn sledges, walk on the snow-covered ground to start their journey of love. (by Shi Gaoming)

**3. Motorcar Dec. 31**  
**Nanniumiao, Lunan County, Shandong**

It is the wedding day of the teacher in the village. The bridal car attracts a large crowd of her pupils and villagers. What concerns the children most is not the fancy vehicle, though rarely-seen in the village, but rather how their teacher looks today. (by Sun Yunliang)

**4. Dog-drawn sled Dec. 31**  
**Ice World, Harbin, Heilongjiang**

Newlyweds, Mr. and Mrs. Ma came to Harbin from Qinhuangdao to participate in the 16th Venus Wedding on Ice. After the ceremony, they decided to try something really innovative: taking their wedding photographs on a dog-drawn sled. (by Chen Yandong)

**5. Automobile and band Jan. 1**  
**Qilu Hotel, Beijing**

To perfect this wedding ceremony, a group of 20 musicians are hired to take part in this grand wedding procession. Accompanied by the music, the bride elegantly steps out of the festooned vehicle like a princess. (by Zhou Guoqiang)

**6. Sedan-chair Jan. 1**  
**Pingyao, Shanxi**

Though the 21st century has arrived, the local people in this ancient city still retain some of their age-old traditions: the bride wearing a stylish leather jacket is going to visit her parents' home in a sedan-chair carried by six men — an interesting picture blending both the modern and traditional. (by Wang Yue)

**7. Boat Jan. 1**  
**Zhouzhuang, Jiangsu**

The picturesque water village of Zhouzhuang provides the perfect setting for a nostalgic wedding. On this wooden boat with traditional decor, the bridegroom in traditional Chinese wedding attire is on his way to pick up his bride from her parents' home. (by Yu Zhixin)

**8. Tricycles Dec. 31**  
**Wenzhou, Zhejiang**

Like Cinderella in the magical carriage heading for the ball, nicely-dressed brides accompanied by their sweethearts ride on tricycles, in a light snowfall, for a once-in-a-lifetime occasion — their wedding ceremony. (by Guo Wenhua)









Various customs and etiquette all help to express the same idea: Our love will last forever

**1-3. Jan. 1**  
**Zhaijia Village in Weishi County, Henan**

1. With the assistance of three local churches, a Christian couple manages to hold a wedding combining both Chinese and Western styles. The wedding procession is now heading for the bridegroom's home for the ceremony. (by Jiang Jian)
2. With the thundering of drums and gongs, the bridegroom leads the bride to the courtyard of his home with a large piece of red satin. The best men and bridesmaids stand by, waiting for the ceremony to start. (by Jiang Jian)
3. The rites are similar to those taking place in a church: the priest blesses and prays for the couple, and after they say "I do", the priest declares them husband and wife. (by Jiang Jian)

**4. Jan. 1**  
**Renhe District, Panzhihua, Sichuan**

On New Year's Day, the tranquil countryside wakes up with the hubbub of people and the noise of firecrackers. Walking on the crisscrossing footpaths between fields, the happy bride and groom set off for their wedding ceremony. (by Ma Xiaojun)

**5. Jan. 1**  
**Jiangmen, Guangdong**

Taking a break from the solemn ceremony to content the complaining stomach. (by Zhao Shanji)

**6. Dec. 31**  
**Dalian, Liaoning**

In the pleasant sea breeze, this bride and her bridegroom, together with about 20 other couples, hold their wedding on the sea and throw bottles containing their pledges and new year wishes into the ocean. (by Wang Dabin)

**7. Jan. 1**  
An innovative and meaningful event in a wedding ceremony: planting trees to beautify the environment. (by Tan Zhongfa)

**8. Jan. 1**  
**Beijing Catholic Church**

It is becoming more popular for Catholics in Beijing to have a Western-style wedding: in the sacred atmosphere of the church, the couple walks down the red carpet while the choir sings beautiful hymns. (by Li Youwu)

**9. Dec. 31**  
**Ice World, Harbin, Heilongjiang**

Kong Lingfeng, an officer stationed at Harbin, and his lovely wife Wu Jianyu toll the ancient bell on their wedding day to commemorate this "historical moment". (by Gong Dianwei)

**10. Dec. 31**  
**Sanlong Village, Shaanxi**

After seeing each other for three years, Yang Huafeng and Heng Haixia tie the knot at the turn of the century. All the villagers come to congratulate them and give a hand in preparing the wedding banquet. (by Li Shengli)

**11. Dec. 31**  
**Chengguan Town, Shaanxi**

At their wedding ceremony, Zhang Longbo and his bride Wang Hongyan bow to Zhang's parents to show respect. The parents' faces bear the marks left during the "making fun of the parents-in-law", another local wedding tradition. (by Wu Weijun)

**12. Dec. 31**  
**National Olympic Sports Centre, Beijing**

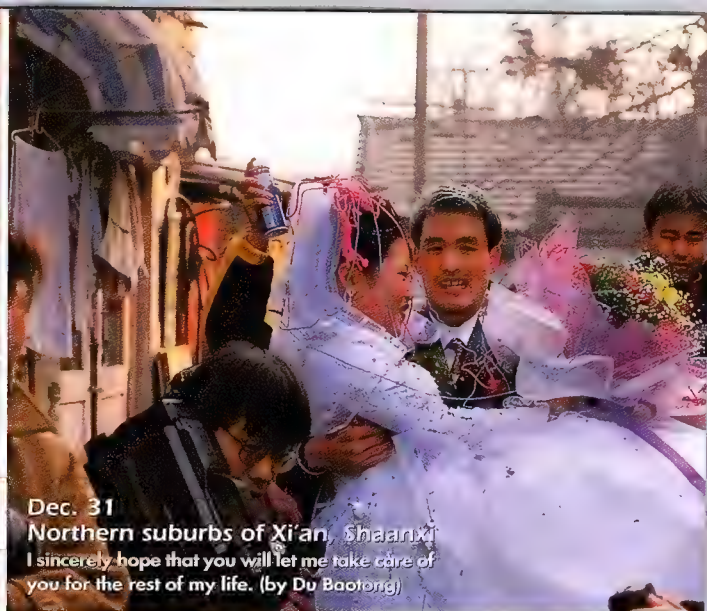
What happens when twin brothers meet twin sisters? The two lads from the Li family and the two ladies from the Lin family, both from Hunan Province, choose to make themselves two perfect pairs in this group wedding. (by Li Delin)







Dec. 31  
China Folk Culture Villages,  
Shenzhen, Guangdong  
Games making fun of the newlyweds  
always stir up roars of laughter at a  
wedding. (by Qin Jianxin)



Dec. 31  
Northern suburbs of Xi'an, Shaanxi  
I sincerely hope that you will let me take care of  
you for the rest of my life. (by Du Baotang)



Jan. 1  
Lanzhou, Gansu  
In wedding attire, these elderly couples look  
elegant and energetic. (by Zhao Guanghan)



Dec. 31  
Nanshan Cultural Scenic Area, Sanya, Hainan  
Sealing a lifetime pledge with a kiss. (by Huang Yiming)



Dec. 31  
China Folk Culture Villages, Shenzhen, Guangdong  
I promise I will stand by you forever. (by Zheng Ligang)



Jan. 1  
Lanzhou, Gansu  
Amidst the sea of faces, I have only you in my eyes. (by Zhao Guanghan)



The two of us make up a  
world of our own

AT THE TURN OF  
THE CENTURY



Jan. 1  
Jingyue Pond, Changchun, Jilin  
Rime on the trees makes a fabulous backdrop for a dreamlike wedding. (by Shan Fengming)



Jan. 1  
Shijiazhuang, Hebei  
I've found the most valuable treasure in my life. (by Gong Heping)



# Remember the Past and Look into the Future



On the first day of the new century at a local home in Tangpang Township, Shaanxi Province, this housewife has just got up. After dozing herself up, she will start another day of life-as usual. The religious portraits on the wall suggest the family is Catholic. (by Tong Yankang)





To run into something that happens only once in 100 years is not easy, let alone in 1,000 years! So how did the Chinese people see off the last day of the previous millennium and welcome in the first day of this new millennium, across a land-mass of 9.6 million square kilometres?

People must rely on written records to imagine many things that happened in the last 1,000 years. Just take a look at people's clothes in movies with historical themes, we can tell what a gap lies between people in history and today.

In fact, life even 100 years ago was vastly different. Kerosene lamps have long disappeared, in their place are electric light-bulbs. We do not use cloth handkerchiefs, but have paper tissues. Rickshaws, and to some degree bicycles, have been replaced by motor-vehicles. There is a wider range of hairstyles, and the kind of traditional gentleman's outfit of a short jacket over a long gown has made way for Western-style suits.

Unlike 1,000 years ago, the relatively late invention of cameras more than 150 years ago has enabled us to capture the more recent past and, through the pictures, we can see what people have experienced in the last century-and-a-half. As time goes on, past memories increasingly become distant, but cameras can capture those special moments. Though our life today seems ordinary, 100 or 1,000 years from now, it will be studied through pictures, videos and written records.

Newly emerging things today may still be in their infant period, toddling along; and while some of them may not be able to continue, others will surely build up and expand. The computer era — a time of science and technology with new developments each passing day — for example, is something that has laboriously moved in, step by step.

Pictures of life taken today for the sake of the future will eventually prove to be a most valuable form of historical data.

History aside, life goes on. Every day we have a need for clothes, food and shelter, and every day we experience the day's happiness, worries, sadness and joy, births and deaths. Even on special days, people still live their customary life. But the arrival of the new millennium brought a better mood and special sights, in addition to ordinary normal life.

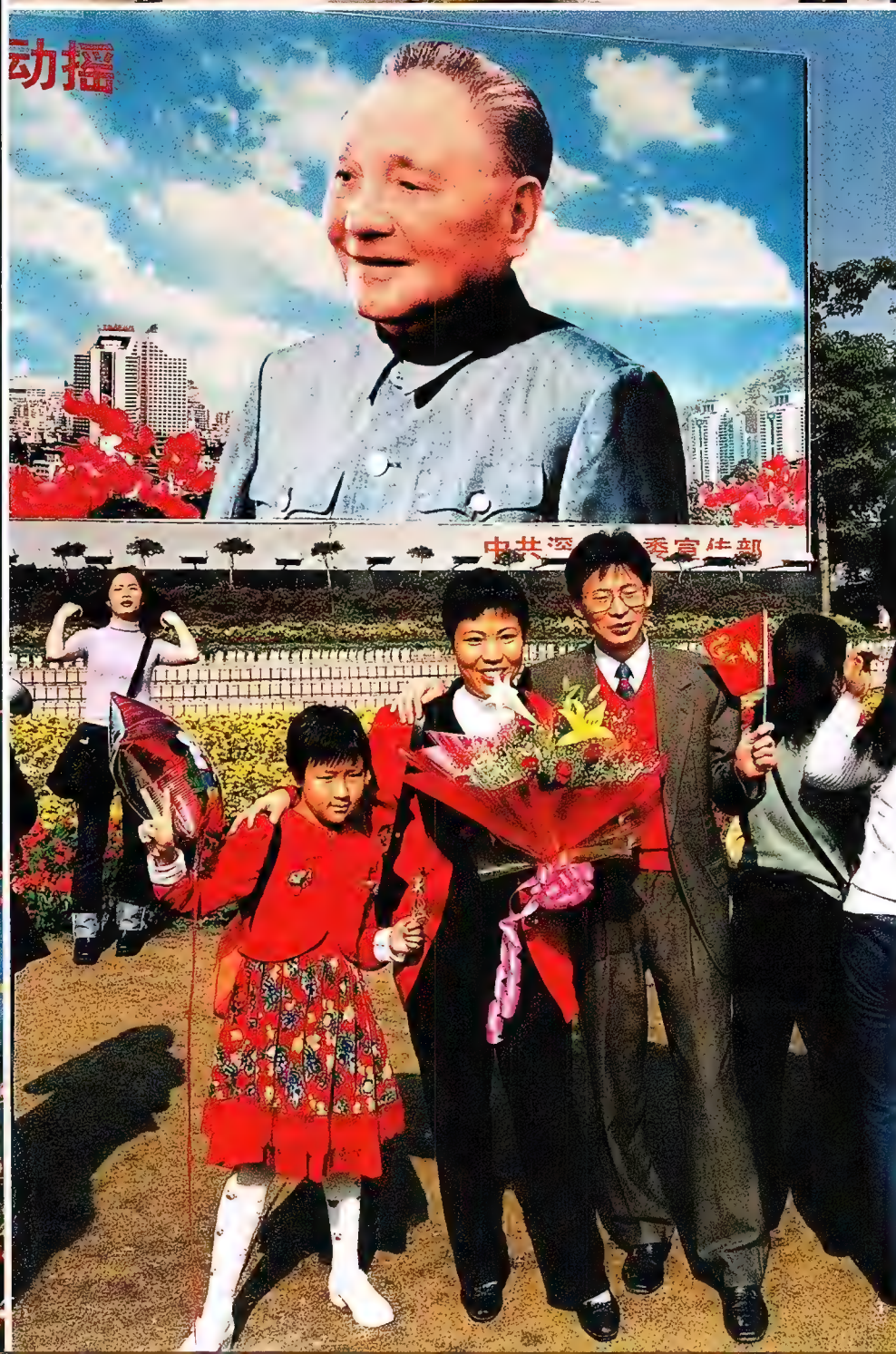


Since the founding of New China, three generations of leaders have emerged, each having made their distinguished historical era in the past 50 years



1. A giant statue of late Chairman Mao Zedong overlooks the square in downtown Yan'an, Shaanxi. In the city which served as the Red Capital of the Chinese revolution and Mao's base, the former leader is still highly honoured. Fireworks are set around the statue to greet the arrival of 2000. (by Feng Yingzhuang)





2. This portrait of President Jiang Zemin, with a slogan which reads "Marching into 2000", is found at Liberation Monument Square in Chongqing. Striding into a new century, building a strong nation and improving living standards are common wishes of every Chinese. (by Hu Changlian)

3. Deng Xiaoping remains to be the most respected figure in Shenzhen. With Deng's instruction and support, the city emerged as the first and most successful example of modernisation by adopting the policies of reform and opening to the outside. On New Year's Day, many citizens come to Shennan Road to take pictures in front of Deng's portrait, a Shenzhen landmark. (by Yuan Chuan)



1. Walking on the frozen Yalu River, soldiers on border-patrol duty make their rounds at 8:00 a.m. on January 1, 2000, in Dandong, a boundary city of Liaoning Province. (by Qi Bu)

2. During their break at 9:30 a.m. on January 1, 2000, soldiers of Tian'anmen Square National Flag Protection Team play a few games of table tennis. (by Li Gang)

3. On New Year's Day, newly enrolled members of Jiangsu Province's Yancheng fire brigade, who are subjected to intensive training, get up at 5:40 a.m. as usual and by 6:30 a.m., the young men are in the canteen for breakfast. (by Liu Pufu)

4. January 1, 2000 is the coldest day of this winter in Heihe, Heilongjiang Province. The temperature is  $-42.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  and in the chilly wind, a border soldier performs his daily duty on the frontier for the first time in the new century. (by Yu Baogang)



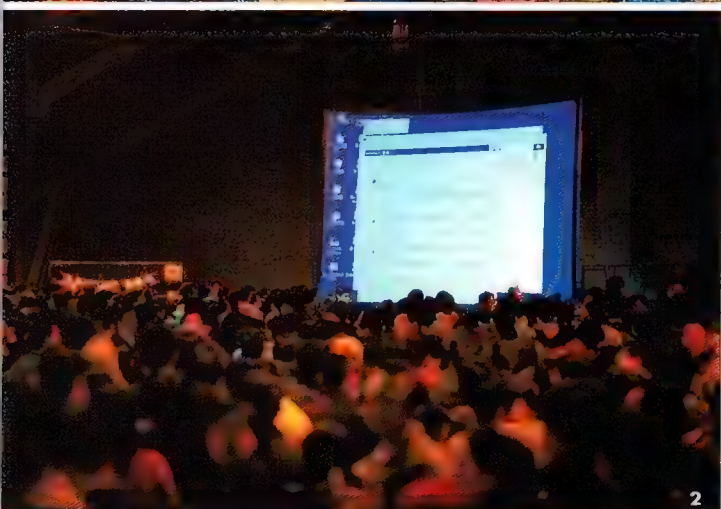


Life in the army is usually hard, even on a joyous occasion like New Year's Day





In the new millennium, education will be key







1. Chongxing Township in Huangping County, Guizhou, is the home of Gejia people. On the first day of 2000, the foundation laying ceremony of a new primary school is held in Wangba, the largest village in the area, with a population of about 1,000 people. The funding for this new school is donated by the Ming Yuen Foundation in Hong Kong. Upon completion, the new Ming Yuen Wangba Primary School will replace the old dilapidated school. (by Pan Hongbo)

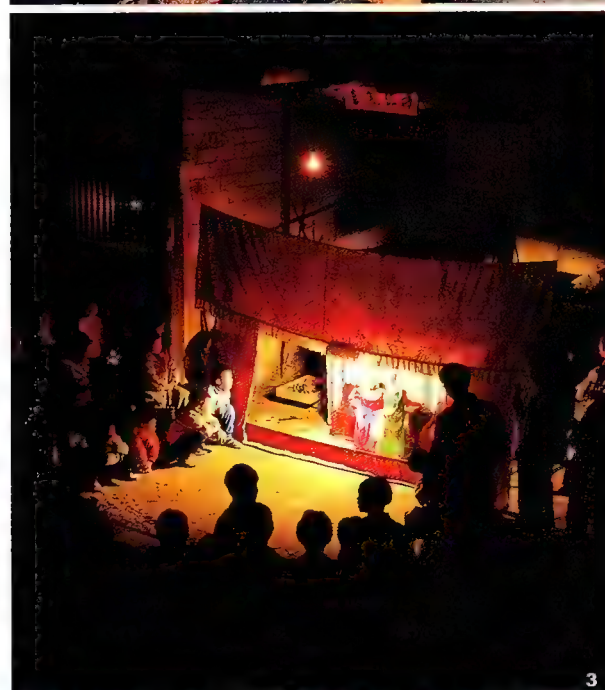
2. On New Year's Eve, a grand performance hailing the coming of 2000 takes place at the Assembly Hall of Qinghua University, Beijing. What happens on stage is not only shown on the huge LCD monitor in the hall, but also broadcast live across the Internet — another example of the flying development of information technology. (by Shao Hua)

3. At 8:00 p.m. on December 31, 1999, at the Xidan Bookstore Building in Beijing, bookworms are still immersed in the plethora of books. Equipping oneself with profound knowledge is the best way to meet new challenges in the 21st century. (by Li Gang)

4. On the morning of New Year's Day, a simple yet solemn flag-raising ceremony is held on the playground of Luoziwa Primary School at the foot of Mount Hengshan in Shanxi. This village school has only a couple of classes and a small number of students. (by Li Youxiang)



With its deep-rooted foundation, traditional Chinese culture still retains its vitality while facing the challenges of modern society

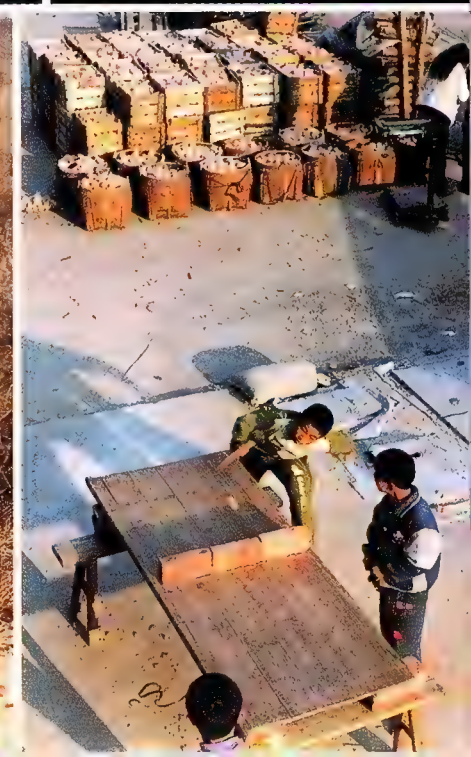


1. On December 31, 1999, the folks of Daoziying Village in Fengxiang County, Shaanxi Province, perform the Qinqiang Opera in front of the Sanyuangong Temple, where Yao, Shun and Yu, three legendary tribe leaders in prehistory China, are enshrined. The performance will last for three days to pray for a strong and stable nation, contented people, and favourable weather. (by Qin Ling)

2. Acrobatics is a quintessence of Chinese culture. At 10:00 a.m. on January 1, 2000, at the Nanhai Film and TV City in Guangdong, a seven-year-old acrobat from Wujiao in Hebei, the home of acrobatics, practises diligently. (by Liu Shuai)

3. On New Year's Eve, a joyous atmosphere enshrouds Tianluokeng in Shangban Village, Nanjing County, Fujian, where elaborate feasts are served and puppet shows strong in local flavour are staged. (by Han Jing)

4. In the morning of January 1, 2000, a Kunqu Opera aficionado from Japan records on video the performance of an amateur Kunqu Opera troupe from Japan, staged at the Huguan Guildhall in Beijing. These Japanese Kunqu Opera lovers come to China every year to stage performances and to exchange experiences with Chinese fellow artists. (by Zhai Dongfeng)







2



4

5. A group of sculptures entitled "Sediment of the 20th Century of China" pose for patrons of the Modern Art Museum in Chengdu, Sichuan, on New Year's Eve at the exhibition, "Gate of the Century". Also on display are the paintings, calligraphic works, sculptures, as well as installations and works of behavioural art by key modern artists of the past 20 years. (by Cao Tie)



6. An interesting scene on a mountain path: the leader of an opera troupe, composed of only child performers from Xin'an County, Luoyang, talks to one of the actors. It is the first day of 2000, and they are on their way to nearby Licun Village for the premiere performance as a New Year celebration. (by Ma Hongsheng)

7. The first morning glow of a new century casts long shadows in the courtyard of a farmer's house in Kengdi Village in Nanping, Fujian. Two boys play table tennis while a third watches, as the grown-ups busily prepare cartons of oranges for pending buyers. (by Wu Shuijin)

8. The Xie family in Suzhou, Anhui Province, is known as a family of musicians. On New Year's Day morning, they stage a mini-concert at their house to entertain their neighbours. (by Han Fei)

8

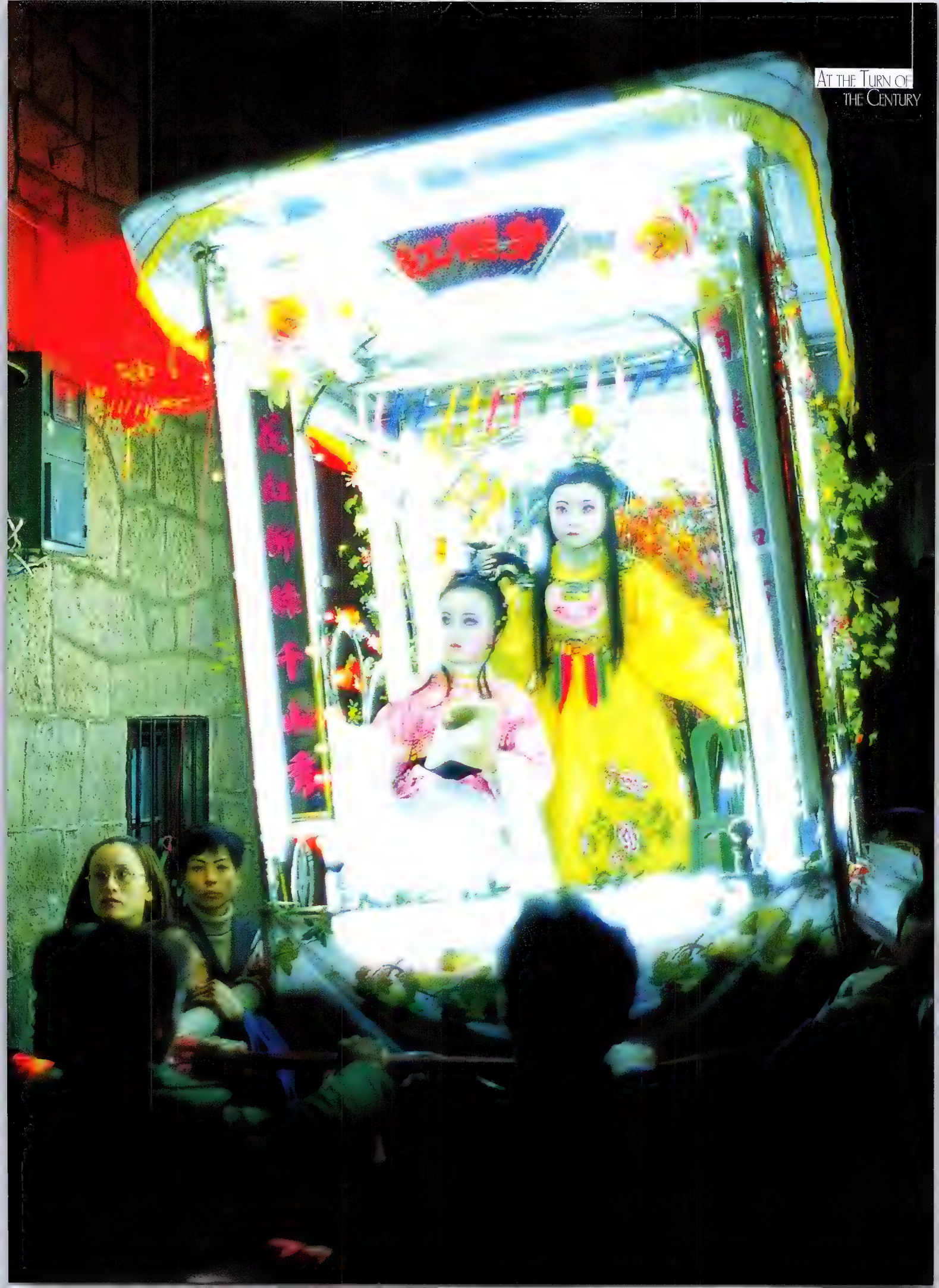


The preservation of tradition depends on succession, dedication and passion



Shitang Town in Zhejiang, China's easternmost fishing port, has developed some of its very own folklore. "Carrying the Pavilion" is their unique way of festival celebration. When night falls, fishermen carrying these self-designed pavilions join together in a procession. Lovely children dress up as characters of Chinese classics, such as *A Dream of the Red Mansions*, to pose inside these pavilions. (by Song Xingguo)







1. On December 31, 1999, inside the White-Flag Dolphin Research Base, a section of the Aquatic Life Institute of the Chinese Academy of Science in Wuhan, a researcher comforts Qiqi, a lonely white-flag dolphin. The planet's deteriorating environment has caused a sharp decrease in the number of this species, making it another endangered animal. The warm winter this year has advanced the oestrus of Qiqi. The institute has searched for a mate to keep her company, but to no avail. (by Jiang Beizhan)

2. Environmental pollution has become the number one headache of modern city dwellers. This bird has no choice but to make its nest on a huge chimney near the Jimen Bridge on the Third Ring Road North, Beijing. The chimney's emissions and others like it continue to contaminate this once beautiful and clean city. Despite measures put forward to tackle the problem, the capital and a few of China's other major cities are among the world's worst polluted. (by Li Huiwen)

3. Since 1982, large flocks of seagulls from Siberia have chosen to migrate to Kunming, Yunnan, for a warm winter. Here in Kunming, the birds have attracted not only the locals, but also the tourists, to feed them. The seagulls' choice suggests Kunming enjoys a satisfactory natural environment. To maintain a harmonious co-existence with birds, man should understand the importance of ecological ideology. (by Li Zhixiong)



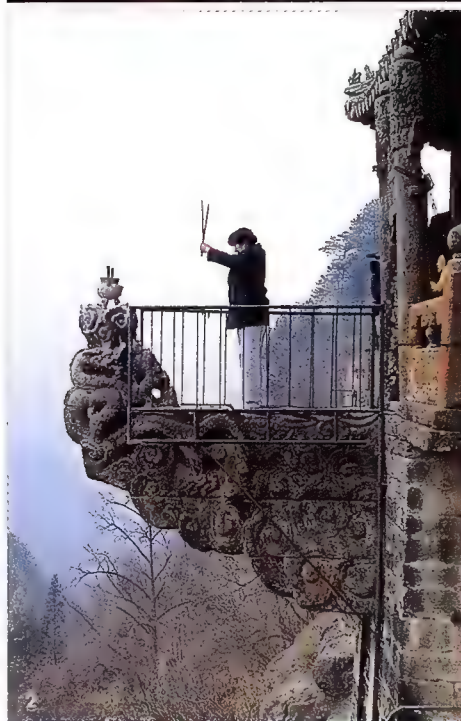


The issue of environmental protection will inevitably become the key concern of man in the 21st century





Pilgrims of various religions all pray for a better tomorrow



1. Hanshan Temple is a must-see for tourists in Suzhou, Jiangsu Province. Many Japanese visitors have a special preference for the temple and come for the bell-tolling ceremony marking the New Year. More pilgrims than usual crowd the place to burn incense sticks at this moment, believing that the year's first offering to Buddha will bring good luck. (by Yu Zhixin)

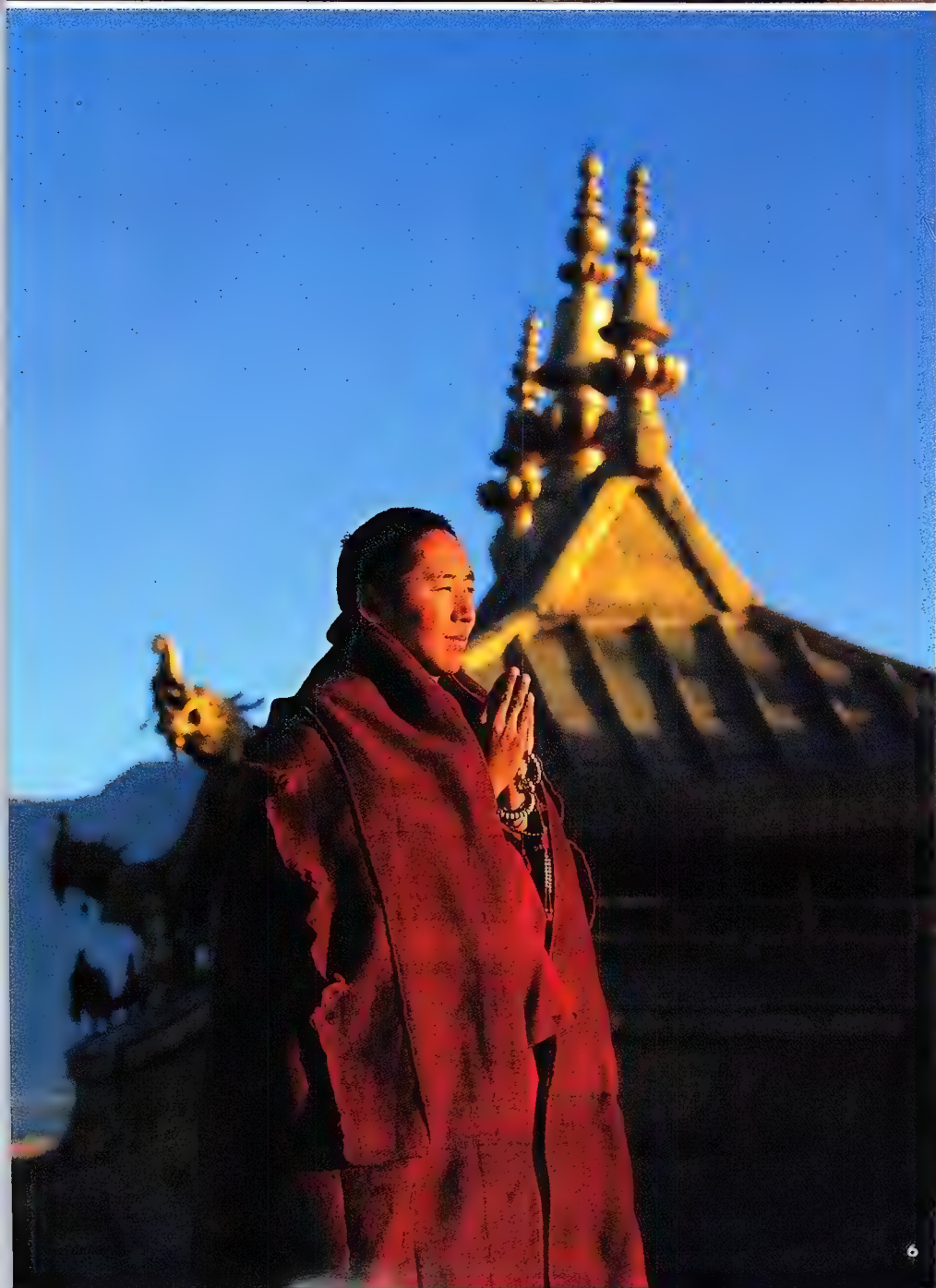
2. The rite of offering incense sticks on the Dragon's Head at Nanyan Palace on Wudang Mountain, Hubei Province, has been forbidden since the early Qing Dynasty due to safety problems. However, proper measures were stepped up before the new millennium's arrival, and the rite has regained its popularity at the turn of the century. (by Yin Daolu)

3. At 10:00 a.m. on December 31, 1999, in a cave dwelling at Gan'guyi Town in Yan'an, Shaanxi, Father Liu Wenlin of the Yan'an Catholic Church hosts Mass for the local pilgrims to greet the new millennium. (by Yang Yankang)

4. At 9:50 a.m. on January 1, 2000, the morning glow of the new century pierces the sky to cast itself on the golden architecture of Labrang Monastery in Xiahe County, Gansu Province. At 10:00 a.m., the lamas assemble in the open area outside the temple to take part in the new millennium's first discussion and debate of Buddhist scriptures. (by Li Kesheng)







5. Id Kak Mosque at Kashi, Xinjiang, is the largest mosque in China. Pilgrims always jam the mosque during the Friday service or during major festivals such as the Corban Festival and Lesser Bairam. The arrival of the new millennium draws pilgrims once again to pray for the blessing of Allah. (by Bao Di)

6. Nima Ciren is a young monk of profound learning at Jokhang Temple in Lhasa, Tibet. His name means the "long-lived sun" in Tibetan. When the sun climbs up the sky for the first time in the new year, the devout lama puts his palms together to pray for world peace in the new era. (by Che Gang)



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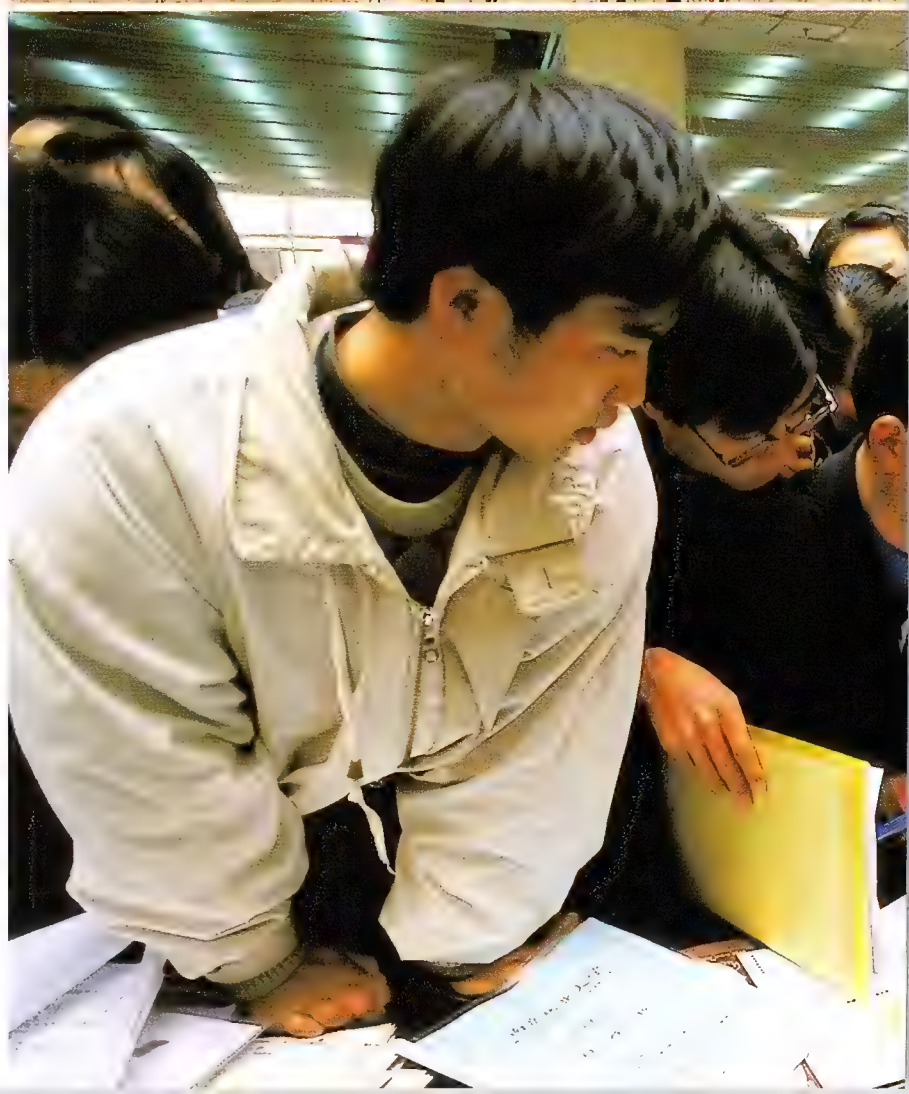


Pingyao, a county town of Shanxi, dating back to the Ming Dynasty (1368-1644), is one of the four most intact ancient cities in China. Naturally, it is a treasure-trove of innumerable historical relics. Every household in Pingyao has its own share of antiques, which now become a source of income: the owners either sell them or rent them for photo-shooting. Will this portrait of Qing emperor Qianlong bring good fortune to its owner today? (by Wang Yue)









1. In Suifenhe, Heilongjiang, it is not uncommon to see carpenters or interior decorators, with their toolboxes, expecting customers in the street. To earn more money, they do not take a day off — even on New Year's Day. (by Tan Jingtao)





A copious labour market is a favourable sign of a growing economy



2. More than 500 companies in Jiangsu Province participate in the 2000 Nanjing Graduate Recruitment Fair, which attracts about 30,000 college graduates who come to look for promising jobs. As a new century unfolds, young people are subject to face even greater and tenser competition in their career development. (by Lu Jun)



In the snap of a camera's shutter, life's important moments become eternal



1. This couple has chosen January 1, 2000 for their wedding day. At 3:00 p.m., the general manager of a photo studio in Changsha, Hunan, helps take the wedding photographs of the pair in person, and wishes them happiness in the rest of their lives. (by Lu Suibin)





2. In Longxian County in Shaanxi Province, it is a tradition for the locals to prepare the grave-clothes for the senior members at home while they are still alive. Then, on an auspicious day each year, the family takes pictures of the elderly person wearing the grave-clothes — which are also called “longevity clothes” — to implicate that the elders will be blessed with good health and longevity. This old lady is having her photo taken on New Year’s Day morning. (by Yang Junli)



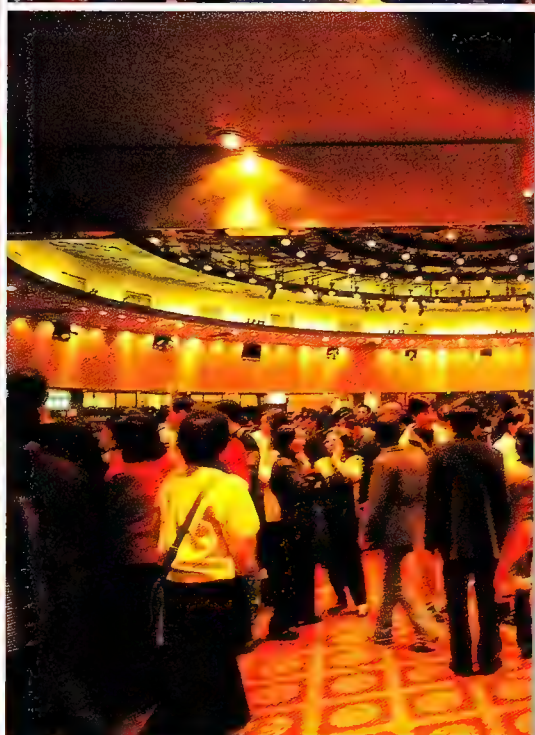
1. In the afternoon of December 31, 1999, accompanied by a vivid "dancing lion", the winner of the welfare lottery of Guangzhou's Baiyun District is making a circuit of the venue to receive the audiences' applause — a scene which is reminiscent of that of a beauty pageant. (by Li Qidong)

2. In the hope to win a car, a prize of the millennium welfare lottery in Beijing, the crowd eagerly remove the seals on their tickets to see if they are the lucky winners. (by Ren Chenming)

3. On New Year's Day, this casino in Macao is packed with people coming to test their luck. It seems the last thing occupying these people's minds is the beginning of a new century. To get this shot, the photographer risked being discovered by the casino's security guards. (by Liu Yang)

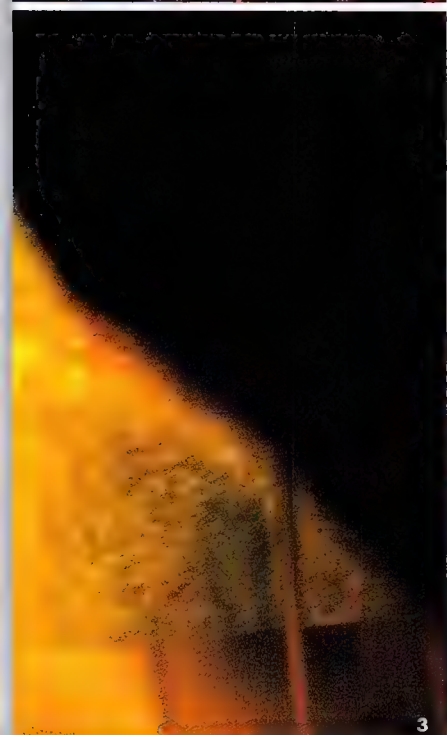
4. Gamblers all over the world choose to celebrate the new millennium by devoting themselves to different forms of games of chance. In Hong Kong, thousands of them assemble in the Happy Valley Racecourse to bet on their favourite horses in the Millennium Cup. (by Xie Guanghui)

5. On New Year's Eve day, citizens of Nanhai, Guangdong, all focus their attention on the lottery which is taking place for the last time in the 20th century. To perfect the festive occasion, the organiser has invited a Hong Kong film star to present the prizes. At 11:00 a.m., the venue is packed with excited people waiting with bated breath for the results to be announced. (by Yang Pei'an)





Lotteries always bring hope to those who believe they are the favourites of fortune





The 21st century also marks the onset of the fashion industry in China



1. Western-style wedding dresses have stolen the hearts of many Chinese brides. In a wedding dress show taking place at noon on January 1, 2000, in Qujing, Yunnan, these girls elbow their way through the crowd, just to stand close enough to lock their envious eyes on the beautiful wedding dresses. (by Zhang Mingxiang)

2. Suits seem to have become the global uniform of men of all ages, and from all walks of life. At 10:00 a.m. on January 1, 2000, at the marketplace in Dagangtou Town, Lishui, Zhejiang Province, a middle-aged man carrying a large bundle of brooms is attracted by a suit on display; whereas the child at foot appears to find the shopping bags more interesting. (by Zheng Guoqiang)

3. At the other end of the marketplace, an old man, however, is attracted by the material of this trendy designer lady's jacket. (by Zheng Guoqiang)







4. At noon on New Year's Day, the second City Tourism and Culture Festival kicks off at the Liberation Monument Square in Chongqing. On stage, models demonstrate the newest wedding dress designs. The square is packed with people watching the performance. (by Bian Chong)
5. The fashionable citizens of Shanghai are more or less responsible for the flourishing garment industry in their metropolis. Numerous fancy upscale international labels have found their way onto busy Nanjing Road, where many boutiques have taken root. At 4:00 p.m. on January 1, 2000, this young man plies the crowds to deliver a mannequin to such a fashion shop. (by Lu Yong)



1. Noon, downtown Kunming: large, colourful advertisements similar to this one can be found everywhere. This local fashion label's advertisement setting depicts Paris, the kingdom of fashion, which has always been the model for China's fashion industry. In the new century, will China's designers stun the world's fashion circles like their French counterparts? (by Wu Jialin)

2. The morning of New Year's Day in Beijingzi Town, Liaoning Province, is a freezing one. Yet the fridity has not stopped the locals from swarming the market. Such a remote area boasting a crowded marketplace like this one best exemplifies the fast development of the small-town economy in the country. (by Zhu Gongfu)

3. As the economy thrives, the desire to improve one's life follows. On the first day of the new century, this couple buys a brand new colour TV-set from a shop on Shanghai's busy Nanjing Road. (by Lu Yong)

4. Kangding, the capital of Ganzê Tibetan Autonomous Prefecture in Sichuan Province, was almost unknown to the outside world in the past due to its inconvenient transport. In recent years, thanks to the improved conditions of the Sichuan-Tibet Highway, especially the opening of the Erlang Mountain Tunnel, the place is flourishing gradually. On the morning of January 1, 2000, vendors busily prepare their businesses for a good start in the new century. (by Huang Yanhong)

5. Toffee-coated hawthorn berries are a traditional Chinese snack, which remains popular among children even today. At 11:00 a.m. on New Year's Day at the Culture Square in Shijiazhuang, capital of Hebei Province, a kid is drawn to a stall selling this appetising confection. How could a mother refuse her son this delectable New Year present? (by Li Yingjie)

6. Increasing demand for mobile phones has brought about tense competition in Hong Kong's telecommunications market. The leading companies have devoted a vast amount of expense to advertising, in hopes to achieve a larger market share. (by Xie Guanghui)

7. To survive keen market competition, companies must always put forward exceptional promotional ideas to boost sales. On January 1, 2000, several workers from a wine brewery don funny masks and red clothes bearing the company's name and products, and then roam the streets as "moving advertisements". (by Ye Xinren)

8. Noon on December 31, 1999, in Luding, Sichuan: a pedicab driver examines a banknote to check its validity. Luding became famous during the 1930s when the Red Army, on its Long March, took control of the Luding Bridge from enemy troops. (by Huang Yanhong)

9. It is a tradition for the cattle markets in Changle Town in Sichuan to hold an opening ceremony on New Year's Day. The first six animals sold on that day will be tied with a red ribbon before being handed over to the buyers, and firecrackers are set off afterwards to celebrate. On January 1 this year, a celebratory atmosphere permeates the largest cattle market in town. The two ribbon-bearing cows pictured here have been sold for 1,500 yuan each. (by Yang Hui)



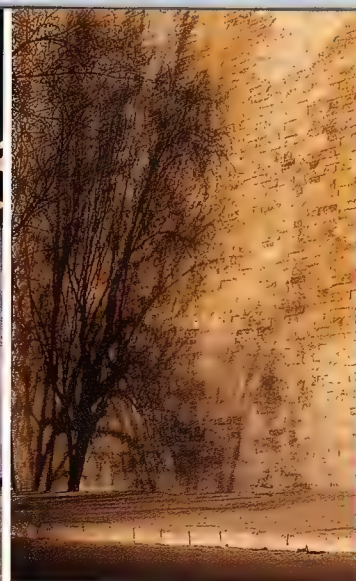


Favourable business opportunities, clever promotion strategies, capable workers, huge numbers of potential customers... all indicate the booming Chinese economy

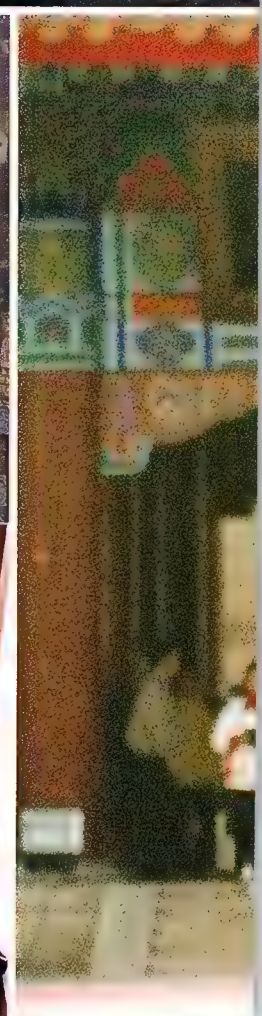




For most people,  
life goes on as-per-  
usual, even on such  
a special day



1. On the last day of 1999, outside the Jin'gang Temple in Luding County, Sichuan, this young monk is happily moving back home a brand new washing machine. (by Huang Yanhong)
2. Flying a long distance every winter, seagulls flock to Kunming, the Spring City in China, to escape Siberia's chilly climate. To Kunming citizens, the birds are just like old friends who have come a long way to bring them New Year greetings. (by Li Zhixiong)
3. Though it is New Year's Day, these gentlemen still meet at their hangout, Nanchanhui Teahouse in Wuxi, Jiangsu, to savour tea and enjoy their birds' beautiful singing. (by Qin Yinxu)
4. On December 31, 1999, at the foot of a giant wall of the Forbidden City, a barber continues to earn his living on the street, giving a customer a clean cut for a fresh start to the new year. (by Zhao Yanping)







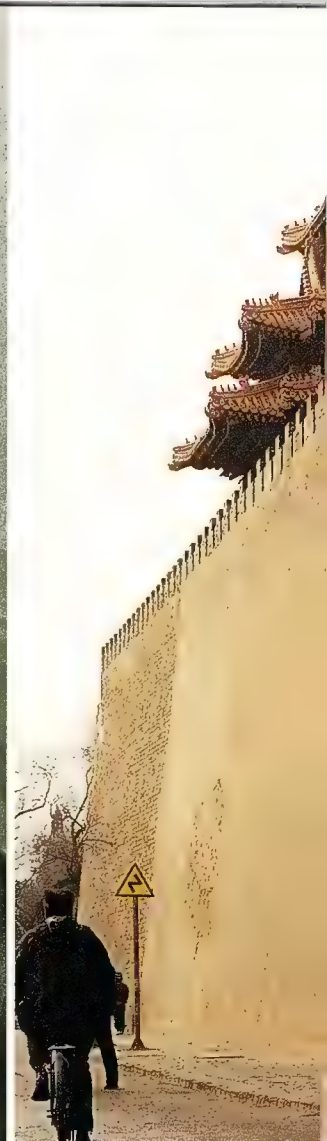
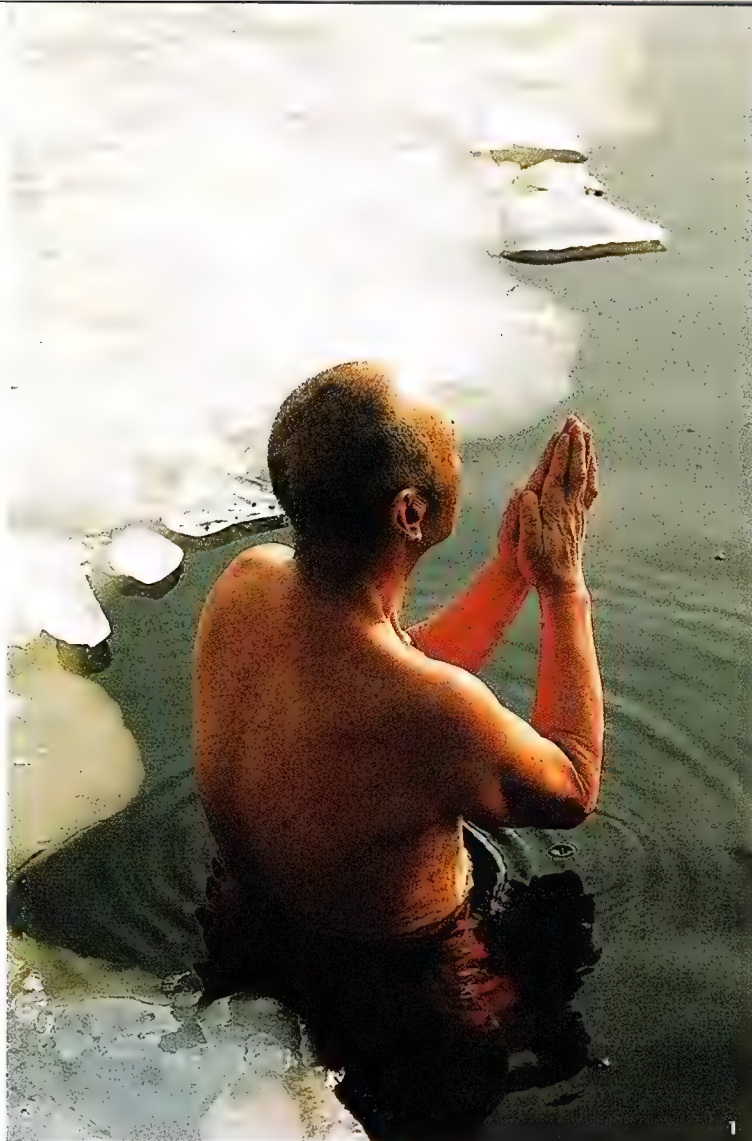
5. On the morning of December 31, 1999, two health-conscious Westerners in Hong Kong go jogging along the waterfront of Tsim Sha Tsui, the city's distinctive skyline acting as a backdrop to their regimen. (by Liu Yang)

6. People go past him, time flies and a new century begins... yet it seems that nothing can bother the monk. On New Year's Day, he sits cross-legged in downtown Taipei, Taiwan, waiting for nothing save the donations of devotees. (by Chan Yat Nin)

7. The first day of a new millennium means nothing more than the beginning of another day of work to these villagers in Tanjiaping Township in Jiaxian County, Shaanxi Province. They are performing their recurrent first task-of-the-day — grinding maize into flour. (by Yang Yankang)

8. The new year holidays provide a good opportunity for the family to go sightseeing. On January 1, a mother dresses herself and her boy up in traditional Qing-dynasty attire to tour the Nanhai Film & TV City, Guangdong. Though the 21st century has arrived, the historical costumes match the nostalgic ambience of the theme park perfectly. (by Liu Shuai)





1. On the first morning of the new millennium, near the North Mausoleum in Shenyang, Liaoning Province, a 76-year-old man takes a bath in the freezing lake. Putting his palms together, he prays sincerely for a peaceful world, with happy and healthy people. (by Leng Bai)

2. At 7:00 a.m. on January 1, 2000, two fashionable young ladies are walking down the street outside the Forbidden City. One of them is talking on her mobile phone, her face wreathed in a smile. (by Che Fu)

3. The turn of the century seems to be the perfect time for lovers to make their vows. On December 31, 1999 married couples and lovers alike swarm to Wudang Mountain, a Taoist sanctuary, to leave a padlock there. It is symbolic of locking their hearts together. (by Yin Daolu)







Most people welcome this once-in-a-lifetime occasion with a joyful heart

4. On January 1, 2000, the Dai and Yao people living in the vicinity of the Mengla Hot Springs in Jinping, Yunnan, have chosen to welcome the new century by soaking themselves in the hot spring water to refresh their bodies as well as their minds. (by Liu Jianming)

5. A winter swimming contest for the elderly is held in Dalian, Liaoning Province, on January 1. More than 100 aged swimmers take part in the race to show off their fitness and strong willpower, and prove that the 21st century also belongs to them. (by Wang Dabin)

6. In the last two decades of the 20th century in China, the policy of family planning was implemented, which gave rise to the one-child families. This photo taken on December 31, 1999 depicts one such family in Dongkou County, Hunan Province. The different expressions on their three faces form an amusing tableau. (by Yuan Chunyu)

7. This lady is moving into her new home at Jinyuan New Village in Lishui, Zhejiang, on December 31. She plans to move in her last piece of furniture — her new bed — sharp on the stroke of midnight, indicating her determination to have a brand new start at the dawn of a new year. (by Lin Yongle)



Always maintain a positive attitude in the face of life's misfortunes







1. On December 31, a fire breaks out at a restaurant in Shapingba District, Chongqing, and a fire brigade is called to the scene. One of the firemen, suffering from smoke inhalation, is evacuated by his team-mates. (by Su Yang)

2. On New Year's Day, at a first-aid centre in the eastern suburbs of Beijing, medical staff treat a patient suffering from a stroke. A tense atmosphere has enveloped the centre all day, and its ambulance has set out 22 times already. (by Guo Huo)

3. Prior to New Year's Day, a cold current from Russia caused a sudden drop of temperature in Manzhouli, Inner Mongolia, and an outbreak of influenza followed. On January 1, inside the Manzhouli Municipal Hospital, some patients have to receive fluid transfusions in the hospital's waiting room. (by Guan Zhaoyun)

4. Mr. Xiao Jingzhi, the 76-year-old vice-president of China Photography Correspondence Institute, was struck by an acute myocardial infraction on December 27. At 5:00 p.m. on December 31, his friends pay a visit to him at a Kunming hospital. (by Wu Jialin)

5. On January 1, a dozen patients suffering from cancer gather in a Wuhan street to hail the new year in song. Through their voices, they express their determination to never surrender to the deadly disease — some of them having been fighting cancer for nearly 30 years. (by Hua Kai)

6. A group of students from the Central China Teachers' University in Wuhan decide to commemorate the New Year by doing something very meaningful — giving blood on New Year's Day at a mobile blood donation centre. (by Hu Weiming)

7. A self-proclaimed doctor appears on New Year's Day at a border market in Pingbian County, Yunnan Province. Claiming that she can tell a person's physical condition by examining the acupuncture points of the patient's hands with an electronic appliance, this dubious "doctor" attracts quite a number of local people. (by Xu Jinyan)





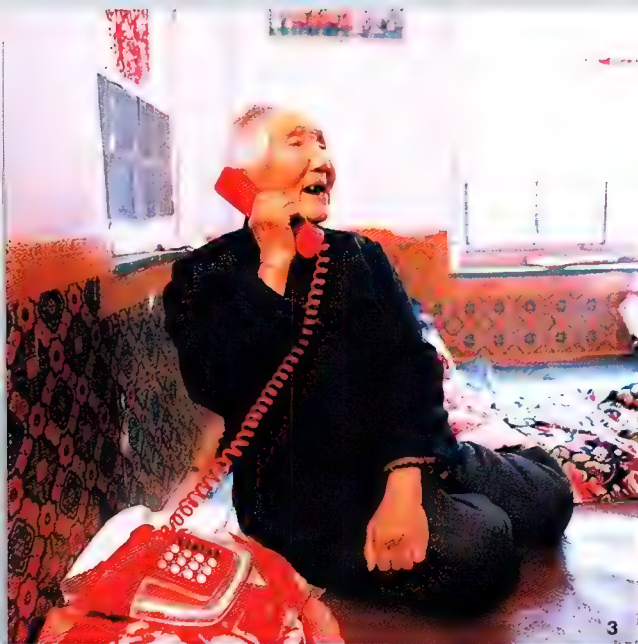


1. This old lady with bound feet, from Huangqi Town in Fujian Province, sits in front of her house on New Year's Day, looking at some old photographs, which draws the attention of her next-door-neighbours. (by Liu Kegeng)

2. Wei Zhongqing (with brown hat, second row, second from left) was born on June 2, 1892, and has witnessed the ups and downs of the country for more than a century. Since the 1950s, she has been living in the neighbourhood of the Temple of Heaven in Beijing, and is now the oldest person in Chongwen District. To commemorate the new century about to begin, the old lady and her family, which spans four generations, have their picture taken at the Temple of Heaven Park. (by Xie Hailong)







Entering a new century in the later years of life



3. Eighty-seven-year-old Sun Taohua, living in Longxian, Shaanxi, is overwhelmed with joy when her son, working in Dunhuang, Gansu, rings her up on January 1 to wish her a happy New Year. (by Yang Junli)

4. Wu Jingyun, a veteran in Shenyang with major battle experience, has been working voluntarily as a traffic conductor for 20 years after leaving the army. His services have been highly appreciated, and on January 1, the dutiful old man arrives at Zhongshan Square to perform his part as usual. (by Leng Bai)

5. The 87-year-old Mr. Huang lives with his 85-year-old wife in Zhaihuang Village in Weishi County, Henan Province. Even though the living conditions there are relatively poor compared with those of the city, their two sons, who left the village to work in the local city, cannot convince the old couple to leave the village to stay with them. Pictured here are the elderly couple and their married daughter, who often comes to visit and take care of them. (by Jiang Jian)



Improved transport has brought about both favourable and unfavourable consequences







1. On the final day of the 20th century, a train flashes past the gate towers of the Jiayuguan Pass, at the west end of the Great Wall. (by Wu Pingguan)

2. On New Year's Day morning in Mutouyu Township, Shaanxi, local people help this boat captain break free of some ice. For more than 60 years, boats like this have ferried villagers living on this side of the Yellow River to the rural fair on the opposite shore in Shanxi. However, motorboats now provide more efficient service. (by Yang Yankang)

3. Drivers and cyclists alike "compete" with each other for road-space in Wuyi Square in Taiyuan, capital of Shanxi, on January 1. Chaotic scenes like this are not uncommon, especially in crowded big cities, even though everything should be well-planned and in good order as society enters the 21st century. (by Shi Zhiqiang)

4. Gao Zongxiang, a captain for Air China, takes his plane aloft without a hitch. It is the first flight to leave the Beijing International Airport on January 1, 2000. (by Tan Ming)



5. An aeroplane safely approaches the airport in Kunming on January 1, 2000. The much feared Y2K computer problem has been successfully solved and the Civil Aviation of China does not receive a single report of computer system failure on this day. (by Wu Jialin)

6. On January 1, outside a small town in Xinjiang, a truck-driver ditches his vehicle after losing control on the snow-slicked highway. Luckily he is not injured, but nevertheless, he has to wait in the chilly air of  $-20^{\circ}\text{C}$  for help to arrive. (by Sun Jiabin)



1. In the first morning of the new century, in the serene Sanyang Village in the countryside of Wenzhou, Zhejiang Province, a small boat brings back a family from a funeral service. The man wearing a hat is the eldest son of the departed mother; the teenager holding the portrait is her eldest grandson. The piece of red satin on the portrait has replaced a black ribbon used on the way to the graveyard, implying that the funeral has been brought to an end. (by Guo Wenhua)



2. A Tajik man from a village in the Taxkorgan Tajik Autonomous Prefecture, Xinjiang, passes away due to an illness. Early the next morning, villagers from near and afar gather at the family's home to mourn. (by Bao Di)



3. On December 31 in Xizhou Town in Dali, Yunnan, this Bai family performs a burial rite. While the coffin passes before them, the sons of the deceased prostrate themselves on the ground to form a symbolic bridge for the spirit of the deceased to cross into the afterlife. In keeping with Bai tradition, during the funeral procession sons and grandsons walk in front of the coffin, carrying wailing sticks and streamers symbolically calling back the spirit of the deceased, while the daughters follow it. Also, a band plays a dirge. (by Xu Jinyan)





The lowering of the curtain on the last century also marks many people's final performance





A century from today, every incident taking place now will have become history to be treasured by our descendants



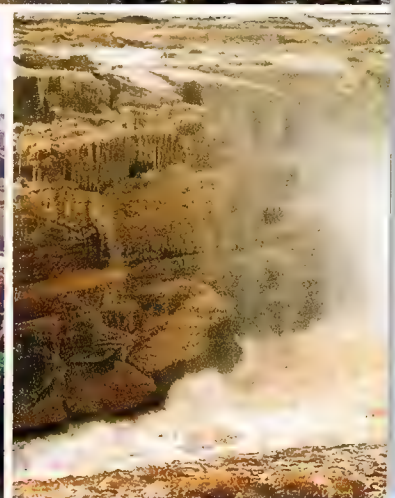
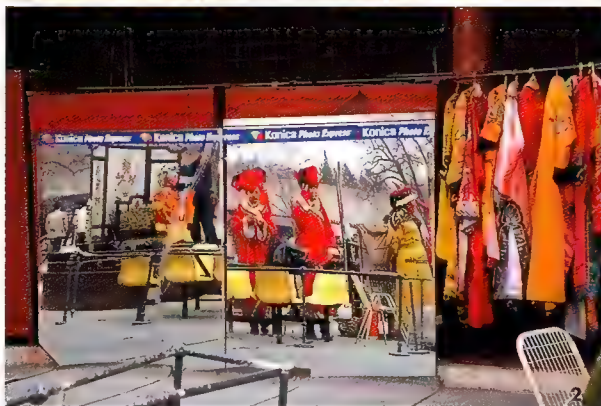
1. At the turn of the century, tourists visit Luding Bridge in Luding County, Sichuan. A major battle was fought at the bridge in the 1930s when the Red Army marched towards the north. (by Huang Yanhong)

2. On the Tian'anmen Rostrum, a stall renting historical costumes to tourists for photo opportunities is open on New Year's Day. (by Li Gang)

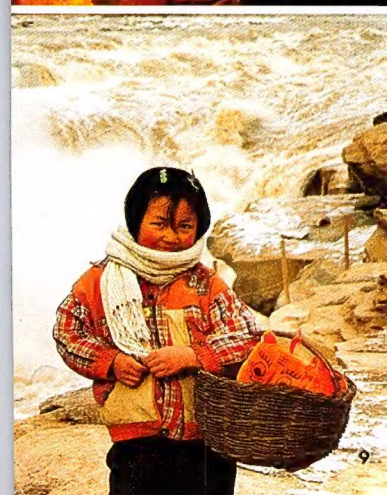
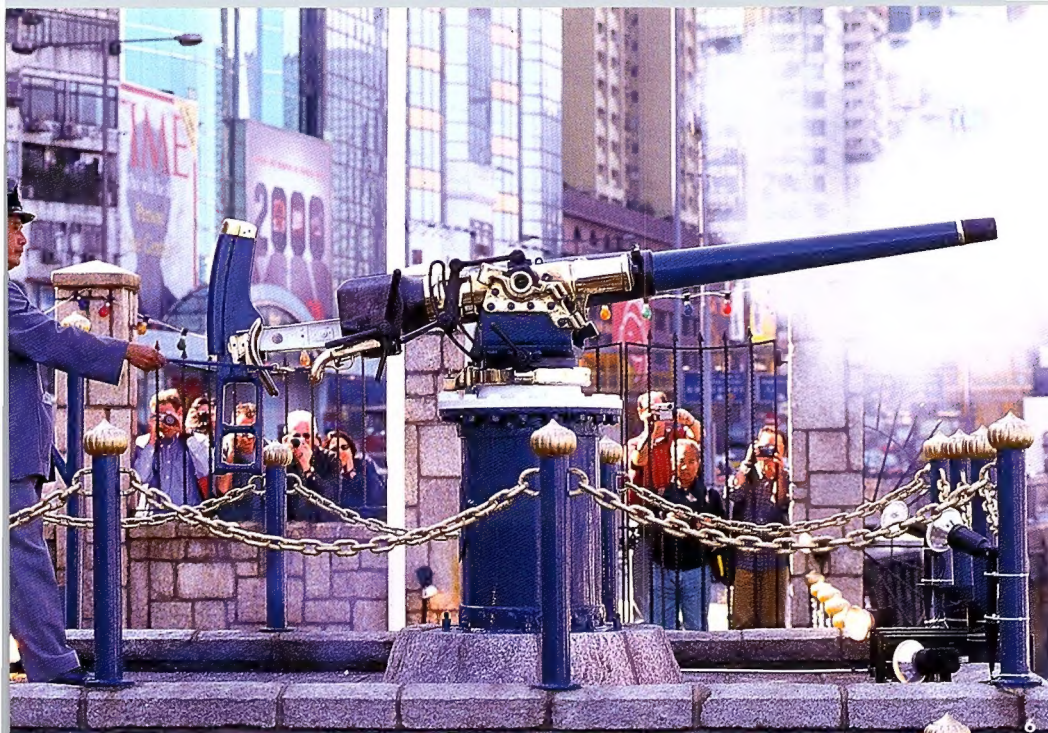
3. As living standards improve, more people choose to keep a pet. In a city-centre square of Panzhuhua, Sichuan, this dog wearing a green sweater is like a spoiled child — its owner doting on it like that of the mother behind her does for her child. (by Ma Xiaojun)

4. To drive away the cold on December 31, locals at a marketplace in Kashi, Xinjiang, eat hot Uygur snacks. (by Bao Di)

5. On New Year's Day, visitors swarm to a scenic area of Yeliu in Taipei, Taiwan, to see strange land formations on the shore created by sea erosion. (by Chan Yat Nin)







6. Jardine's Cannon fires daily at noon on the shorefront of Causeway Bay, Hong Kong. On New Year's Day, it barks out its first shot of the new century. (by Xie Guanghui)

7. On January 1, in the Shuanglin District Two in Chengdu, Sichuan, a local opera troupe performs on a temporary stage to entertain the neighbourhood's old people. (by Chen Jin)

8. On New Year's Eve, these local farmers attend a fair at the Longmen Town Ferry in Nanchong, Sichuan, which is held every three days. They bring with them sweet potatoes, mandarins and eggs as well as other produce — all the outcome of their hard work. (by Yang Hui)

9. On December 31, a lovely girl is vending some folk handicrafts at Hukou Waterfall on the Yellow River, Jixian County, Shanxi. (by Zhu Baolin)

10. In the twilight of New Year's Eve, near the Alijia Lake in Fuyuan County, Heilongjiang, herdsmen and their herd return home from the pasture. (by Liu Xiangyang)





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## NEXT ISSUE

### Highlights of Issue No. 243

- The Silk Road Revisited** The Silk Road, the ancient thoroughfare connecting Asia and Europe, has always been a favourite of thrill-loving travellers. The majority of them follow the main route spanning Lanzhou, Wuwei, Zhangye, Jiuquan and Dunhuang.... In next month's "Feature Story", our correspondent sings a different tune: from time to time he leaves the Hexi Corridor, the major section of the Silk Road, venturing into wilderness rarely visited by tourists. What new excitement will be encountered? Follow this voyage of discovery.



- Lijiang Stone City** Inhabited by the Naxi people, the Stone City in Baoshan Township in Lijiang, Yunnan Province, dates back to the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368). Due to its location and difficult accessibility, it remains almost unknown to the outside world even today, hence it has managed to preserve its

integrity and primitive appearance. Entering the city, visitors will find themselves in a world of stone: walls, tiles, beds, tables and stools are all meticulously carved out of locally quarried stones. Visitors may also experience the hospitality and simple lifestyle of the Naxis.





# The Enjoyable Shopping at Beijing Lufthansa Center



On the shore of the placid Liangma River in eastern part of Beijing, the imposing Lufthansa Youyi Shopping Centre stands in the style of an European castle, occupying an area of 6,000 square metres. Along with five-star hotels such as Kempinski, Kunlun and Great Wall Sheraton in the vicinity, this shopping centre greatly contributes to this emerging prosperous commercial area.

It has been eight years since the Lufthansa Youyi Shopping Centre opened on June 30, 1992. The first retail enterprise with both local and foreign capital since the founding of New China, this shopping centre is the forerunner in the industry. It has adopted a modern management and administration system which is embodied in the following aspects:

**Pioneering management concept:** To become "the best in the country and in line with international standards" is Lufthansa's ultimate target. To provide "a most enjoyable shopping experience" is Lufthansa's promise to its customers.

**Precise market positioning:** Lufthansa markets its merchandise as "middle and higher class" products targeting customers who have comparatively higher spending power, foreign residents in Beijing and overseas tourist groups. The sales figures have proved Lufthansa's tactic successful.

**Advanced management and sales strategies:** Lufthansa establishes its own management and sales strategies with experience from the leading shopping centres both at home and abroad. They have changed the business relationship between customers and vendors into one that involves satisfaction in customer services. The key to achieving this is to "respect and understand" the customers' needs.

**Professional and systematic product management:** At present, Lufthansa merchandises 400,000 items of quality commodities of 100,000 varieties. Almost all the famous domestic brands can be found in Lufthansa, in addition to 500 international labels.

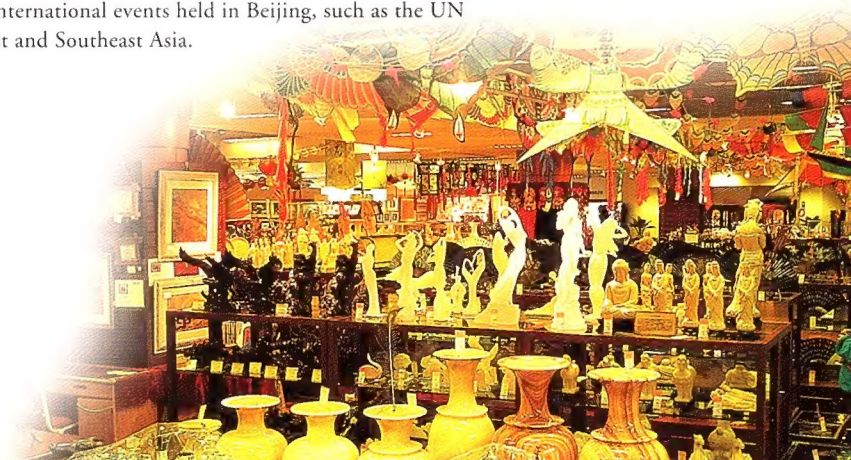
A window in Beijing which showcases China's reform and opening-up policy, Lufthansa Youyi Shopping Centre has received hundreds of thousands of local and foreign customers, including a good number of heads of state and governments, and international celebrities. It is also the appointed shopping centre for the attendants of major international events held in Beijing, such as the UN World Women's Conference and the Special Olympics of Far East and Southeast Asia.



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